

The Cold War – Chapter 12 – Upping the Ante

Just short of 6 months after Ron distributed the rifles, Linda and he came back to Flippin for a visit. It was Labor Day 2009.

The US had cleared away the damage and was into the rebuilding process. Congress had adopted a Uniform Building Code for the country and tied compliance to a withholding of federal funds. The gist of the building code was that buildings would be resistant against all manner of natural calamities. A companion bill provided a tax credit for people who built FEMA approved shelters.

“What a crock,” Ron said. “They waited until the horse was in the next county before they closed the barn door this time.”

“What are you babbling about?” Gary inquired.

“That new building code.”

“What about it?”

“It was about 30 years late. Now that the Chinese have attacked the country, they start what amounts to a Civil Defense Program.”

“The Department of Homeland Security followed 9/11, so it’s business as usual. I wish they’d repeal the Patriot Acts.”

“And give up the extra power and restore our rights? It’ll never happen.”

“Hey Ron, good to see you,” Clarence said joining his short friends.

“What’s new Clarence? Your house done?”

“It’s finished and I get to take that new tax credit on my shelter. Big deal, Shirley and I didn’t pay much in taxes anyway.”

“Did you get the M14’s from Gary?”

“And 12,000-rounds of ammo,” Clarence explained.

“If we ever find ourselves using the rifles as SAW’s, you’re going to run out of ammo pretty darn quick, partner,” Gary said.

“This is a nice quiet little town, Gary. I doubt we’d ever have to use those rifles unless we went hunting.”

"I hope you're right, Clarence. If we need to defend our homes in the middle of the Ozark Mountains, the whole country will be in trouble."

"Mark and Paula headed back to Austin in July," Ron announced. "Linda's sister moved to Albuquerque and Jennifer and Brenda are going to move back to Ft. Smith."

"It will be so quiet you won't be able to hear yourself think," Gary chuckled. "As soon as Amy finishes Law School and passes the bar, she's planning on moving out."

"Robert has his cancer back and the doctors told him it's inoperable."

"Sorry, partner, what are you going to do, you know...?"

"John is moving in with the sister-in-law and we're selling the home. Where can I find property to build on here in Flippin?"

"The Three Amigos are going to be back together? Great! There's property available all over the area. Talk to a realtor tomorrow. The contractor that built our homes is pretty good with the shelter construction. You'll have to get started on that home pretty quick or wait until spring," Gary responded.

"Could the two of you manage the project? I can set up a bank account here in Flippin and put enough money in the account so you can acquire the incidentals. I think maybe we'll want a 30kw Onan standby residential generator, a couple of 25ft³ freezers and so forth," Ron said.

"Have the contractor get it all for you and put it in Ron. He can probably save you some money," Clarence suggested. "What do you have in mind for a home?"

"Lyn and I paid a pretty penny for the architect to design the home we're living in. We really like the floor plan so we're building the same thing here in Flippin."

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The following day, Ron and Linda found 5 acres they liked and paid cash. They met with the contractor that evening and gave him the blue prints to their home in Cedar Hill. The contractor said the plans exceeded the requirements of the new federal building code so he didn't anticipate any problems get the plans approved. Ron gave the fella his shopping list for the basement shelter including a 3 bar blast door and 3 bar cutoff valves for the blast filters and generator. He even told the contractor where to buy them. The contractor told Ron and Linda that he could get the home closed in before winter and could have it finished by sometime in March or April of 2010. The biggest problem would be in putting in the well Ron wanted in the basement.

"I guess we'll be back in April, fellas," Ron told his friends. "We'll probably need a whole moving van to ourselves."

“Are you going to have any trouble selling your home in Cedar Hill?” Gary asked.

“Are you kidding? They’ll be lined up to buy the place. We should make a tidy profit because it has everything a survival minded family would want. We heading out tomorrow and I took your advice about having the contractor do everything. I’m not going to need the two of you to keep an eye on the project after all.”

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April 2010, Flippin, AR...

Robert had passed and Ron and Linda had sold their home in Cedar Hill, NM. John had moved in with his aunt and Jennifer and Brenda had moved into new homes in Ft. Smith. Ron had been right about the moving van and they had enough ‘stuff’ to move to fill the moving van $\frac{3}{4}$ full. They had even boxed their meat in coolers filled with dry ice and moved it to Flippin. It took the 3 movers a day and a half to unload the truck and they didn’t really arrange anything, they just got it in the basement, on the first floor or the second. Gary got David’s boys to help and two days later everything was in place and Ron and Linda were ready to settle in.

The contractor had been able to get Ron a used 30,000-gallon propane tank and had it filled with 27,000-gallons of propane. The new home had a 200-amp electrical service and a 200-amp transfer switch. It was pretty fancy. They had a 5-bedroom house in case Brenda, Jennifer, John or Linda’s sister showed up. They didn’t really expect the sister; she had been the person who’d bought their home in Cedar Hill. She told Linda that Albuquerque gave her the jitters.

“Did you feel that?” Ron asked. “I’d swear that felt like an earthquake.”

“It probably was, Ron,” Clarence laughed. “We’re only about 150 miles from the New Madrid Fault Zone.”

“You two yard birds are just oversensitive,” Gary smirked. “Our homes are everything proof and it’s a long way to that fault.”

“Didn’t you feel it?” Ron asked.

“It didn’t rattle my closet doors, so it couldn’t have been very big. Clarence, have you checked the sky lately?”

“I haven’t had time. I’ve been practicing my bugle calls.”

“What kind of horses do I want to buy for my ranch?” Ron asked.

“Tennessee Walking Horses,” Gary replied. “And if you want pack animals, I’d suggest Morgan’s or Mules. I don’t see how you can call 5 acres a ranch and in this part of the country, they’re called farms.”

“Where do I go to find the horses?” Ron asked.

“Hell, I don’t know, Tennessee?” Gary quipped.

The following day, Ron contacted the contractor and told him he wanted a slab and an insulated steel building to house a small herd of horses, cattle and possibly hogs and poultry. The contractor told Ron it would take about a month to get the building in. Ron hired David’s boys to erect a fence around their property. He hired a local man with a Ford tractor and a posthole digger to begin to put in the postholes for the new fence. The boys waited until the fella had $\frac{2}{3}$ of the postholes dug before they started setting the posts. They caught up with the guy about the time he finished. In the Midwest, most farmers put in a wood post every 30’ and 2 steel posts 10’ apart between each wooden post. A roll of string and a tape measure insured the boys spaced the posts correctly. They stretched in a roll of hog wire and when that was done added 3 strings of barbed wire. By the time the fence was in, the contractor had Ron’s barn finished and The Three Amigos headed to Tennessee to buy horses.

“I don’t know why you want livestock, Ron,” Gary complained. “When you have livestock, you have to stay home all of the time and tend them. The hogs, cattle and poultry have to be fed, the eggs gathered and the horses fed and groomed. You’ll be 68 in September, and most guys your age would be selling off the family farm, not starting one.”

“I’m just getting ready for Armageddon, partner,” Ron replied.

“Been there, done that got the t-shirt,” Gary replied. “After World War III, what else could happen?”

“I can’t quite picture you milking a cow, Ron,” Clarence replied. “Are you sure it’s ok for you to be shoveling pig manure with your heart in the shape it’s in?”

“I’m a gentleman farmer,” Ron laughed. “We’re going to get a hired hand to take care of the livestock and keep up our grounds.”

“Sharon says that I have to buy her a horse. I’m darned if I know why, she hasn’t ridden since 1976.”

“Are you going to buy a horse named Salina for yourself?” Clarence asked.

“Screw you Clarence, I’m sorry I ever told you about that danged horse,” Gary replied. “I’m buying the gentlest mare I can find. If she even looks like she wants to run, I’m going to shoot her. I’m too dang old for this crap anyway. The good news is that it will be

an excuse for me to buy a Winchester in .45 Colt caliber rifle. How much are you going to charge me to board 2 horses, Ron?"

"Whatever the going rate is in this part of the country, Gar-Bear. What kind of tack are you going to buy?"

"I'm going to let Sharon pick out her own saddle, partner. I'm going to get a McClellan with a soft Calvary seat for myself."

"This isn't the wild, wild west, you know," Ron pointed out.

"I live on the west side of town, sure it is," Gary replied.

"What did the 10th Calvary use?" Clarence asked.

"The McClellan."

"That's what I'm getting then."

Each of the men bought 2 Tennessee Walking Horses mares that had been bred. The seller would deliver the horses and Ron wanted to look for a couple of Black Angus heifers. He'd get the vet in the area to artificially inseminate them when they were old enough. Linda had placed an order for pullets so they already had chickens on the way. Back in Arkansas, Ron found a farmer with a Holstein cow that was almost due to birth her calf. The only thing he lacked was a hired hand to take care of everything and someplace for the fella to live.

Gary got Derek to order him a Winchester Legacy model 94 in .45 Colt with a 24" barrel through the Wal-Mart store. A series of phone calls and a little work with a tape measure got The Three Amigos tack from Four Winds. All 3 men bought the McClellan soft Calvary saddle and the women opted for something a little nicer. The mare that Gary bought for himself came close to eating a bullet; maybe the horse's name was Salina after all. Or, maybe the horse just sensed his fear and was having a little fun. Gary wasn't laughing.

Clarence bought a Vaquero in .45 Colt with a 7½" barrel and found one of those reversed Calvary holsters. Ron bought a Vaquero with a 5½" barrel and some kind of fast draw rig. Both of the men bought identical rifles to the one that Gary ordered. They got a good price on .45 Colt ammo by buying 5,000-rounds, 2k each for Ron and Clarence and another 1k for Gary. Each man had selected the Heavy .45 Colt +P Ammo - 260 gr. JHP (1,450 fps/M.E. 1,214 ft. lbs.) - 50 Round Box They were a sight riding those horses. Gary was wearing stretch Levis, a golf shirt, tennis shoes and a cowboy hat. Ron was in appropriate dress and Clarence was wearing his 10th Calvary uniform. The ladies refused to ride with them because The Three Amigos appearance was embarrassing.

Clarence tried blowing the bugle and got bucked off for his efforts. Gary decided to test the theory that shooting a rifle from the back of a horse was only something that happened in the movies. At least he didn't break anything when he hit the ground. That mare got awfully shy for a while after that, they flat near had to tie her down to get Gary back on her back. Gary had so many contusions he could barely walk.

"Gar-Bear, you have to wear something besides those faded old jeans and a golf shirt," Ron said.

"Why?"

"You look like hell."

"I feel like hell."

"A long sleeve western cut shirt would hide some of the bruises."

"If you know where I can get a pair of wranglers, I'll get some shirts and jeans. I guess I can wear my cowboy boots with the zippers, but you know that I can't walk in them."

"Sharon told Linda she needs a different horse."

"I should have bought her the Morgan like I wanted. I figured she'd be too heavy for the one I bought. If a Morgan can't handle it, I guess we'll have to go to a draft horse. We probably ought to buy a couple of Belgians anyway."

"What for?" Clarence asked.

"Ask Ronald, Clarence, he's the one that started this Wild West show."

"She told Linda she wanted a Friesian," Ron continued.

"A whosit's?"

"A Friesian."

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The Friesian horse is gentle, honest, sober, high mettled and clever. It is descended from the western European horse that has been in general use from the earliest days on and that attained high perfection in the Knight's horse, the destrier. So far, it has been preserved in Friesland only. There is an increase of numbers outside the province. That it is able to achieve great performances is shown by the fact that during the demanding marathon championships for four-in-hand teams in 1977 as many as five teams of Friesian horses participated. Tjeerd Velstra from Deurne (North Brabant) became Dutch Champion and in the same year Reserve European Champion at Donaueschingen (Ba-

den-Wurtemberg in Western Germany). The maintenance and improvement of the Friesian horse is supervised by the “Het Friesch Paarden Stamboek.”

The Friesian horse is unique, truly a breed to be proud of. It developed from a very old breed, which was inherent to all of Western Europe. It's the only horse native to Holland. Historically speaking, the Friesian horse has been influenced by eastern bloodlines and has often been threatened with extinction. Thanks to the single-mindedness and dauntless dedication of true horse lovers, one can still appreciate the many facets of the Friesian horse today. The Friesian horse has a talent for dressage. The foundation lies in his intelligence, willingness to learn, and readiness to perform. His pleasant character and his gentleness make the Friesian an attractive mount for competition as well as for recreational purposes. The riding club “De Oorsprong” (the source), from Huis ter Heide near St. Nicolaasga in Friesland, has been using only Friesian horses since 1937 in order to advertise their abilities as riding horses.

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“Sharon probably wants one because she read about them in one of her Harlequin Romance novels. I think that that breed was used for Knight's horses.”

“Considering what armor must have weighed, one of those could probably haul her all day long,” Ron suggested.

“Maybe I can find her a bred mare,” Gary said wistfully. “But I think a Morgan would be cheaper.”

“So, make her a deal, Gar-Bear,” Ron suggested. “She gets her Friesian and you get a M1A Super Match rifle with that fancy scope, suppressor and Harris bipod you wanted.”

“I saw Geraldo on the news last night and I almost puked,” Gary said.

“Amy is becoming a lawyer,” Clarence pointed out.

“Right, but she's neither Jewish or Puerto Rican,” Gary countered. “I don't think she can even read a map, let alone draw one.”

The rifle, scope, magazines and ammo cost Gary about \$5,000. The horse cost a whole lot more because it had been bred to a Champion. The rifle was the Super Match with the McMillian M3A ladder adjustable black stock and the Nightforce NXS 8-32x56mm scope. At 8 power Gary could see 600-yards without a problem. He rounded out the package with a Surefire FA762S suppressor and the Harris bipod. He also added another 1,000 rounds of Black Hills 175ge BTHP match.

Let's talk about Gary's love for suppressors. In Europe, some countries require that your rifle be suppressed. Putting a suppressor on a match grade rifle only improves the accuracy. It is also the best flashhider you can buy. Unfortunately for the federal govern-

ment, the NFR was destroyed when the Chinese attacked Washington. In 2010, if you knew somebody who knew somebody, you could sometimes get a suppressor without all of the paperwork. Hey, Geraldo, Gary has his Super Match rifle now; don't make any public appearances in Arkansas!

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Sharon named her new horse Star because of the blaze on its forehead. The horse stood about 17 hands. Ron had to put in a "loading" platform for them to mount their horses. He hired a boy straight off the farm that knew all about livestock and put in a 16'x84' 3 bedroom, 2 bath trailer with the desert package for him. Derek sold Ron one of the 12kw Onan generators and replaced it with a 30RES and a new 3,300-gallon tank. Pioneer Propane picked up both of their 500-gallon tanks and transferred the propane to Derek's new tank. Derek had worked himself up to Department Manager of Sporting Goods. Amy had passed the Bar Exam and was a member of the Arkansas Bar. She had gotten a job in Little Rock at a law office that specialized in suing for personal injuries. Gary and Clarence had made arrangements that if his boys or Amy were told to bugout to Flippin, they'd get together and caravan their way north.

Gary had given Clarence some good advice, but hadn't taken it himself. Once Amy was gone, he had the contractor back and had a second floor added to their 3-car garage. Derek was getting awfully tired of Damon and his family and Gary moved them in over the garage when the contractor had it finished, defeating his purpose entirely. Ron bailed Gary out by adding a second floor to his 3-car garage. If Amy came back to Flippin, he'd put her up, for a price of \$250 a month. Gary and Sharon considered it a bargain at \$500 a month, but didn't tell Ron and Linda.

It wasn't a question of if there would be another catastrophic event; it was only a question of when and what the next disaster would be. With his new bypass surgery and his fancy pacemaker, Ron was good to go until 80. You didn't really expect that The Three Amigos wouldn't get back together did you? The Three Amigos had become an institution. Or, maybe they just belonged in an institution.

Labor Day 2010 was a special holiday because The Three Amigos were back together and Amy was only visiting, not living there. Amy was pretty cocky, but aren't most lawyers? She was talking about how they'd done this to one insurance company and that to another. Gary had to leave the room and hide out in his basement; he couldn't take it any longer. He was totally convinced that Amy had only become a lawyer to get back at him for his being a poor father (he was right). The holiday was also special because they were nearing the 3rd anniversary of World War whatever it was between the US and the Chinese.

"I finally bought a rifle," Damon announced.

"What kind of rifle did you buy, Damon?" Gary asked, unnecessarily. Damon was obviously busting at the seams to tell him anyway.

“A Barrett.”

“What model?” Damon was obviously going to drag it out for all the mileage he could get.

“M82A1M and Derek got me extra magazines. You’d be surprised how cheaply Wal-Mart can buy the weapons. I got 6 spare magazines and several boxes of the Mark 211 MP Raufoss Multipurpose Ammunition.”

“What about the flashhider?” Gary asked.

“Do you mean the Reflex suppressor? That was pretty danged hard to get, you know, but I got the Elite Iron. The well-known recoil-action Barrett M82 with the suppressor is almost comfortable to shoot, with the suppressing effect on noise and the absence of pressure shock on shooter and spotter. They have an integral muzzle brake to boost the recoil brake effect. Because a suppressor adds the mass of the recoil action barrel of the M82, I added a stiff spiral spring between the suppressor and the receiver to further soften the felt recoil.”

“You sound like a Reflex ad.”

“Right, I memorized it.”

“What did you get for a scope?”

“A Swarovski PV 6-24x50 P.”

“Pretty expensive scope.”

“Derek got the full discount on the rifle, scope and magazines.”

“Derek, front and center!” Gary yelled.

“Yes, Dad, what now?” Derek replied.

“You got lame brain a Barrett rifle, Swarovski scope and extra magazines at 40% off of retail.”

“That’s the same deal I got you on the Springfield rifle and the Nightforce Scope,” Derek replied.

“Yeah, but you didn’t tell me you could do it on a Barrett rifle and Swarovski scope.”

“You didn’t ask.”

"I'm asking," Gary said.

"Pretty dang expensive," Derek replied.

"Sharon got the fancy horse and I want to be sure I can get Geraldo."

"Cash on the barrelhead and you get your own suppressor," Derek replied.

"Damon, can you get another suppressor?"

"What's in it for me?" Damon asked.

"I won't use you for a target."

"Are you sure you can pick up a M82A1?"

"I'll get a wheel kit, get me the suppressor."

"How about I slap you upside the head and restore your reason instead?"

"You wearing your vest?"

"No."

"Don't try it."

"Sheesh, listen to him," Damon said.

"Where did you get the ammo?"

"I think it's hotter than a \$3 pistol. I can get you a little of it, but do you know anything about it?"

"No, explain it to me."

"The round combines armor-piercing, explosive, and incendiary effects and uses a highly effective pyrotechnically initiated fuze that delays detonation of the main projectile charge until after initial target penetration – moving projectile fragmentation and damage effect inside the target for maximum anti-personnel and fire start effect. While the round can be used in sniper rifles similar to the Barrett M82A1/XM107, it has the equivalent firing power of a 20 mm projectile to include such targets as helicopters, aircraft, light armor vehicles, ships and light fortifications, and can ignite JP4 and JP8 military jet fuel," Derek explained.

"Perfect! How much can you get?"

“I can maybe get you 240 rounds, but it will set you back another grand,” Damon replied.

The Cold War – Chapter 13 – The FFM

“What are the 3 of you fighting about?” Sharon asked.

“We’re not fighting, it’s just a lively discussion.”

“About what?”

“Nothing much. Damon bought himself a new rifle.”

“And I suppose that you have to have one too, huh?”

“Do you like your new horse?”

“He’s ok, but I need a new saddle.”

“Derek, make a note to measure Sharon’s horse for a new saddle and bridle,” Gary suggested. “Any particular pattern you want?”

“Same as before, only bigger.”

“Maybe I’d better get you a rifle and scabbard just in case you run into a rattlesnake.”

“Who are you worried about? Me or the snake?”

“Just don’t try shooting the rifle while you’re in the saddle. The guy was right; they only do that in the movies.”

“What about a handgun for me?” Sharon asked.

“What do you want?”

“Maybe a .38, they’re sort of medium sized, right?” (When in doubt, always agree.)

“Right and I already have some ammo. Derek, make a note to order a Ruger model GP-840 for Sharon (blued .357 Magnum with fixed sights and a 4” full shrouded barrel). Get her a Winchester legacy in the same caliber.”

“Thank you dear, just don’t fight any more,” Sharon instructed.

“I noticed you didn’t reply when she asked about the snake,” Damon smiled.

“Any snake that bit her it would probably die in 15 minutes. Get me two boxes of regular .38 ammo so we can break her in slow. Get one box of wad cutters and one of 158-grain round nose. They barely even recoil. We’ll load her revolver and the rifle with .357. You’d better get a strap holster and a couple of speed loaders, too. I’m going to have to

talk to Ron and Clarence. The minute Sharon shows up with a rifle and revolver, Linda and Shirley will want some too. How come that .50 cal ammo is so damned expensive?"

"I think it had to do with availability, Dad. It is totally illegal."

"You tell your buddy that I want 600 rounds but I'm not paying any \$5 a round for the stuff. If he's stealing it anyway, he should be happy with whatever he gets."

"What if he says no?"

"Make him an offer he can't refuse. Offer to blow the whistle on him. Derek, you go with Damon and take your 10mm WOP gun. Do either one of you know anything about a 25mm cartridge that they developed to replace the 20mm cartridge for the XM29?"

"That's the Barrett M109 25mm Payload Rifle, Dad. The Army went to them when the XM29 couldn't drop the weight."

"Can you get me 3?"

"Where? Those are military only. I'm not sure they even sell them to the cops," Derek replied. "In fact I think they may still be experimental. The cartridge is the 25mm cartridge from the OCSW XM307."

"That's the lightweight machinegun isn't it?"

"No, that's the XM-312, 50 caliber machine gun. The last I heard Ronnie Barrett was working with an ammunition company trying to perfect a cartridge to use in the M109."

"Where is Murfreesboro, TN from here?" Gary asked.

"That's on I-24 southeast of Nashville. I guess it might be about 450 miles."

"I'll keep that in mind," Gary responded. "Forget about the rifles for now. Take care of the other things we talked about."

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"Hey you two, how would you like to make a trip to Tennessee?"

"What's in Tennessee?" Ron asked.

"Barrett Firearms."

"You can't buy a rifle in another state," Clarence pointed out. "Especially, probably not a Barrett."

“Ron, could Linda and you loan me \$20,000?” Gary asked.

“That’s a lot of money, what do you want it for?”

“Barrett developed the M109 25mm Payload rifle. I want 3 of them, one apiece. Derek says it’s built off the M82A1 with a different upper receiver. I was thinking that we could somehow get into the factory and liberate the 3 I want plus some ammo. I figure \$20k ought to cover the value of what I want to liberate.”

“That would be worse than shooting my .375 H&H Magnum.”

“It’s supposed to have the recoil of a 12-gauge shotgun using 3½” shells.”

“Count me out,” Clarence said with a little anger in his voice. “It’s one thing to steal weapons from the military after TSHTF, but I won’t be party to stealing from Ronnie Barrett.”

“I don’t think I want to get involved either, Gar-Bear,” Ron shook his head. “I guess Linda and I can’t spare the \$20k after all.”

“Don’t get mad, it was just a thought. Anyway, Damon bought a M82A1 and some spare magazines. Somehow, he got his hands on some of that Raufoss ammo the snipers use. I told Derek and him that I wanted a .50 caliber rifle, magazines and some of the ammo, too.”

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October 4, 2010...

A break-in over this past weekend netted thieves a McMillan Tac-50, spare magazines, parts kits, a Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm riflescope, a McCann night vision rail and Elite Iron suppressor. The authorities have no leads at this time.

“So did you buy a M82A1?” Ron asked.

“Nope, I selected another rifle,” Gary replied.

“Did you hear about the break-in at Barrett over the weekend?”

“No, what happened?”

“Somebody stole 4 of those 25mm upper receiver assemblies, magazines and all the 25mm ammo that the company had on hand.”

“Really? Do they know who did it?”

“Apparently they don’t have a clue.”

“We should have done that; at least I was willing to pay for what we took,” Gary observed dryly.

“I’ve stood in front of all the judges that I want to in this lifetime,” Ron replied.

“It’s been a tough life,” Gary acknowledged. “When are Clarence and you going to buy the M82A1 rifles?”

“I didn’t know we were planning on buying any.”

“I was thinking that with the 12 SAW’s you put together, the assortment of firearms we have and all the ammo, we ought to form a Militia here in Flippin.”

“Really? You must be daft. What would you call it?”

“The Frigin’ Flippin Militia, FFM.”

“Who do you plan on joining this FFM?”

“We could start out with the 3 of us. Then we could add Damon, Derek, David and his 4 boys. If we were to add Amy and Mary to the group, we’d have an even dozen. You have to figure that the FFM wouldn’t be doing anything unless TSHTF and in that instance, we’d have Ronnie Joe, Jennifer, Brenda, James and Clarence Jr.”

“You didn’t mention Mark and Paula or John,” Ron pointed out.

“Would they be here?”

“Most likely.”

“Fine, that makes 20. We still have more weapons than we have people.”

“Maybe Derek could get some of the fellas he works with to join up,” Clarence suggested.

“You want we should use the Stars and Bars?”

“Yeah, we have to have some kind of flag; it has a long and proud heritage,” Clarence said.

“I’d like to see that,” Ron chuckled.

“See what?”

“Clarence carrying the Stars and Bars.”

“It’s called the Southern Cross. The Stars and Bars was the first flag of the Confederacy,” Clarence commented. (Arkansas joined the Confederacy on May 6, 1861.) “The Southern Cross was actually a battle flag and the Confederate Navy Jack.”

“Hey wait a minute, what about the Stars and Stripes?” Ron asked.

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing.
- The flag is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be drawn back or bunched up in any way.
- The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind. (Obviously adapted from freemasonry)
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, railroad train or boat.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.
- Contrary to a commonly believed urban legend, the flag code does not state that a flag, which touches the ground, should be burned. Instead, the flag should be moved so it is not touching the ground.

What is usually called “The Confederate Flag” or “The Confederate Battle Flag” is still a widely-recognized symbol. The display of the flag is controversial and a very emotional issue, generally because of disagreement over exactly what it symbolizes. To many in the US South it is simply a symbol of regional pride and heritage. Others see it as a symbol of the institution of slavery (Jesse Jackson?) which the Confederate government defended, or of the Jim Crow laws enforcing racial segregation in the Southern States for almost a century later. According to Civil War historian and southerner Shelby Foote, the flag traditionally represented the South’s resistance to northern political dominance

generally; it became racially charged during the Civil Rights Movement, when protecting segregation suddenly became the focal point of that resistance.

On April 12, 2000, the South Carolina state senate passed a bill to remove the flag of the former Confederate States of America from on top of the statehouse dome by a majority vote of 36 to 7. Placed there in 1962, according to one local news report, "the new bill specified that a more traditional version of the battle flag would be flown in front of the Capitol next to a monument honoring fallen Confederate soldiers. The bill then went to the House, where it encountered some difficulty. But on May 18, 2000, after the bill was modified to ensure that the height of the flag's new pole would be 30 feet, it was passed by a majority of 66 to 43, and Governor Jim Hodges signed the bill five days later. On July 1, the flag was removed from the South Carolina statehouse." Current state law prohibits the flag's removal from the statehouse grounds without additional legislation. Police were placed to guard this flag after several attempts by individuals to remove it. Ironically enough, in some people's views, the flag is easier seen now than it was atop the State House Dome.

In 1955, the Georgia state flag was redesigned to incorporate the Confederate Battle Flag. This caused much controversy, and in January 2001, a new design was adopted intending to recognize the Confederate Battle Flag's historical significance while minimizing its prominence. Voter backlash in 2002 booted the Governor over the issue, giving way for the state's first Republican Governor in 130 years. In 2003, because of the continued controversy, the flag was redesigned yet again, without any image of the Confederate Battle Flag, although it does now strongly resemble the First National Flag of the Confederacy, known as the "Stars and Bars." In March of 2004, another vote was taken giving voters the opportunity to choose between the two most recent designs of the flag, but specifically excluded the Confederate Flag version of 1956.

The Confederate Battle Flag became a part of the Mississippi state flag in 1894, whereupon a strange series of events ensued. In 1906, the flag statutes were omitted by error from the new legal code of the state, leaving Mississippi without an official flag. The omission was not discovered until 1993, when a lawsuit filed by the NAACP regarding the flag was being reviewed by the Mississippi Supreme Court. In 2000, the Governor issued an executive order making the flag official. After continued controversy, the decision was turned over to citizens of the state, who, on April 17, 2001, voted 2-1 to keep the Confederate Battle Flag emblem on the state flag.

The flags of Alabama and Florida still retain the distinctive saltire, while the Arkansas flag uses a design reminiscent of the Confederate Battle Flag. Aside from the controversy over official usage, many southerners - and northerners who identify with the south and its history - display the flag privately.

If a person is going to move to a new region of the country, it is best to observe local traditions. (My whole point.) The Confederate Battle Flag is held in high regard in the states that were members of the Confederate States of America. Clarence could explain it; he was from Birmingham, Alabama originally. One way to attract a few good ol' boys

to your militia was to have a flag they could rally around. Besides which, Gary had been a rebel since his 5th birthday. (I feel a song coming on.) Nick Adams, who was best known to audiences as Johnny Yuma of the TV series 'The Rebel' (1959), played leads and supporting parts in many films of the 1950s, often cast in the same 'troubled young man' mold as his good friend, James Dean. He was nominated for an Oscar for his performance in Twilight of Honor (1963). He died in 1968 due to an overdose of drugs he was taking for a nervous disorder. His son is named Jeb Stuart Adams.

*Johnny Yuma was a rebel
He roamed through the west
Did Johnny Yuma, the rebel
He wandered alone*

*He got fightin' mad
This rebel lad
He packed no star
As he wandered far
Where the only law
Was a hook and a draw
The rebel, Johnny Yuma*

[Repeat 1st verse]

*He searched the land
This restless lad
He was panther quick
And leather tough
If he figured that
He'd been pushed enough
The rebel, Johnny Yuma*

[Repeat 1st verse]

*Fightin' mad
This rebel lad
With a dream he'd hold
'Til his dyin' breath
He'd search his soul
And gamble with death
The rebel, Johnny Yuma*

o

The Three Amigos began flying the Confederate Battle Flag. They had no trouble recruiting a few volunteers for the FFM. They didn't want to upset anyone with the name of the group, so they told everybody the initials represented a Latin maxim they couldn't

pronounce. Most of the good ol' boys had plenty of weapons of their own. Their favorite knife seemed to be something they called a 'toothpick'. James Black is credited with inventing both the Bowie Knife and the Arkansas Toothpick.

"Y'all from up north?" Bubba asked.

"California."

"Y'all talk like a bunch of Yankees."

"Would a Yankee fly the Confederate Battle Flag?"

"Thas sumthin, Bubba, they's flyin it at all thur places."

"Waz the reasun yur makin up this here group?"

"To defend our homes."

"Against what?"

"Geraldo claims the Russians are coming," Gary replied.

"Geraldo? Y'all talkin bout thet ju-boy spic? He don know nuttin'."

Some southerners, or so it is alleged, don't much care for Jews, Catholics, Black People or anyone who isn't White-Anglo Saxon-Protestant (WASP). I wonder if Bubba belongs to the Klan? What's that the FBI calls them? Kluckers? This is a free country and you should be able to belong to any organization you want, just as long as you don't step on anybody else's rights in the process. By the early 1970s, however, most groups claiming ties to the KKK dropped anti-Catholicism from their officially-stated doctrines, and in the mid-1980s a Klan chapter was found to exist in New York City's borough of Queens, with most of its reputed members in fact being Catholic, primarily of Irish descent. Gary belongs to the NRA and used to belong to The American Legion. He was also a Freemason for 35 years (past tense). Ron buys an NRA membership 5 years at a time. And all 3 of the amigos belong to AA, but not the Klan, probably because they won't let Clarence in. I don't see why, Clarence isn't Jewish or Catholic.

o

"Look what I found," Gary announced.

"What is it?"

"It's a McMillan Tac-50, spare magazines, parts kits, a Nightforce NXS 12-42x56mm rifle scope, a McCann night vision rail, MUNS night vision and an Elite Iron suppressor. It

came with 1,200 rounds each of Hornady 750r A-MAX Match and 1,200 rounds of Mk 211 Raufoss.

“Where did you find that?”

“Around.”

“What are you going to do with it?”

“Learn to shoot it.”

“Gar-Bear, Clarence I went ahead and got those Barrett M82A1 rifles. Where can we get the suppressors?”

“Texas.”

“Can you get them for us?”

“Ok. How much ammo do you want?”

“We bought the Barrett ammo.”

“Good ammo. Not match grade. Now how about some of the stuff the military used in Iraq?”

“Expensive?”

“Damon thought so, but I’m getting it pretty cheaply.”

“How did you manage that?”

“That would be kissing and telling. How much do you want?”

“A couple of thousand rounds.”

“Right, 200 rounds, apiece. I’ll get you the suppressors and 200 rounds of ammo. Figure on about \$2,500 apiece, plus the ammo.”

“How much was the ammo?”

“\$5 a round before I arranged a discount.”

“Ouch. The Barrett was only about \$249 per 80 round case.”

“Do the shells explode?”

“Nah, it was manufactured to current US Military specification MIL-C-10190 for M33 Ball. It has a 661-grain FMJ projectile at 2910 fps using 233-grains of WC860. IMI makes it for Barrett.”

“The military snipers used the Mk 211 MP Raufoss Multipurpose Ammunition in Iraq. It explodes as it penetrates and really does some damage. That’s why the guy charged Damon \$5 a round. We more or less negotiated and I’m now getting it for \$2.50 a round. But, I’ll have to warn you, it is probably stolen ammo.”

“One .50 caliber cartridge looks like another. I can claim I bought it at a Swap Meet or a Gun Show. I’ll take 600 rounds to split between Clarence and me, if you can get it.”

“Ok, \$3,750 total. I get you 600 rounds and talk to Damon about the suppressors.”

“Why the money up front?”

“Hell, I’m broke. There was that new rifle and revolver for Sharon, a scabbard, the M1A Super Match, scope and suppressor, plus my latest acquisition.”

“I’ll bet,” Ron chuckled. “When do we get them?”

“Get what?”

“The upper receiver assemblies, magazines and ammo.”

The Cold War – Chapter 14 – Reflections

BTW, Bubba was really Jed and his companion in the Bubba conversation was Abel. They'd done the Bubba bit to toy with the folks from California.

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"What are you babbling about?"

"Those upper receivers, magazines and ammo that were stolen from Ronnie Barrett."

"I had nothing to do with that. I was here all of the time and Damon was busy launching a rocket. Derek had to work all weekend, so it wasn't any of us."

"Do you mean to tell me that Clarence and I bought the M82A1's for no good reason?"

"You had a couple of good reasons. First, they're good sniper rifles and have a range of over a mile. Second, you don't have any other sniper rifles and I may need backup if I ever go after Geraldo."

"When are you buying the Kimber Eclipse II 10mm pistol," Ron asked. "You have the Super Match and you said it was next?"

"It's on order. Only I didn't get the 10mm. I got the same gun that LAPD SWAT uses."

"Why did you buy a .45 and not a 10mm?"

"Because I already had 2,000 rounds of .45ACP ammo."

"Why did you have that? You didn't have a .45ACP pistol."

"I just put it on the list to see if anyone would catch it." (Lie)

"What are you talking about?"

"Never mind. Anyway, I ordered the Kimber Custom TLE II. Other than the markings, the pistol is an exact duplicate of the SWAT Team's gun. The Custom TLE II features a match grade barrel, chamber and trigger group, high ride beavertail grip safety, beveled magazine well, and a lowered and flared ejection port. The one-piece match grade barrels are machined from solid steel forgings for both accuracy and long life. It also has the Meprolight Tritium three dot green night sights and 30 lines-per-inch front strap checkering. The retail price was \$895, but I got it for \$850."

"So what about the M109's?"

"What about them?"

“If you didn’t steal them, who did?”

“I couldn’t say. I heard a later broadcast and they said that there was no sign of forced entry. It must have been an employee.”

“Or someone who could pick locks,” Ron suggested.

“Really? I hadn’t thought of that. I suppose you’re right. That reminds me of the guy who left the sawmill every night with a wheelbarrow full of sawdust. The guards poked through the sawdust every night for twenty years on the assumption he was stealing something. He was allowed to take the sawdust and they never did find out what he was stealing.”

“And...?”

“Wheelbarrows. Never overlook the obvious (change the subject).”

o

The Raufoss 12.7 mm x 99 MP NM140 (US nom. Mk 211 Mod 0), seemed like the solution to Ronnie Barrett’s problem with the ammo for the M109 to Gary. In fact, he’d sent the company a letter suggesting that very thing (really). Raufoss made the projectiles in calibers starting at 12.7mm and going much larger. Their products included a 20mm projectile similar to the NM140. It might not be the projectile envisioned for the OCSW, but it would avoid the problems associated with an intelligent cartridge. It would undoubtedly be cheaper, too. Using the Raufoss projectile seemed like the obvious solution. They’d probably end up reinventing the wheel. Barrett actually now produced a rifle specifically for the Mk 211 ammo.

The letter: *The Raufoss 12.7 mm x 99 MP NM140 (US nom. Mk 211 Mod 0) is used in your .50 caliber rifle by the military. Why couldn’t you develop a cartridge for your M109 using the 20mm Raufoss projectile? I read where you folks are working with an ammo company to develop a round for the weapon.*

Barrett’s reply: *We are a “gun” company and not an ammunition company... we try and direct our resources to making the best rifles in the world based on what the military uses for calibers. The 25mm XM109 uses the same ammunition as XM25.*

Barrett missed the point, but at least they took the time to reply.

Gary had studied everything he could find about the OCSW (M-307) and Barrett’s M109 rifle. During the development of the M-307, the cartridges (HE) had cost between \$30 and \$36. This was considered an improvement over the 40mm grenade at \$15 each because they required 111 rounds of ammo per kill and the 25mm grenade was expected to only use 6 rounds of ammo per kill. At full production, the rounds were esti-

mated to cost about \$22 each. In terms of cost per kill, the Mk-19 was \$1,420 while the M-307 was \$130. Hell, the government couldn't even do the math, $6 \times 22 = \$132$. Barrett couldn't wait for the military (General Dynamics) to develop the cartridge for the M-307. General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems is developing the airburst 25mm ammunition. Kaman Dayron, Inc. is developing the fuze and Raytheon is developing the full-solution fire control. Remember: In all the towns and all the cities, there are no statues to Committees; a short cut is sometimes the longest distance between two points. (Business 101)

◦

Gary hadn't stolen the upper receiver assemblies, magazines or ammo. That didn't mean that he didn't know who had. Neither did it mean that he did know who had. Remember Sgt. Schultz? Sometimes the warmest place for your head is up your ass. That's where the expression, get your head out of your ass comes from. The exchange of letters came before October 4, 2010. They did make a mighty fine rifle. But, Kimber made a mighty fine pistol. Why then were these FAQ (frequently asked questions) on the Kimber website:

My pistol will not feed semi-wad cutter ammo. Why is this and how can I remedy the situation? – Kimber pistols are throated to handle a wide variety of ammunition types and, like all quality 1911... (They actually answered this question, at length.)

Barrel Leading – Barrel leading may be due to a number of factors inherent in shooting jacketed lead bullets. Barrel leading may be due to a number of factors inherent in shooting jacketed lead bullets (stick to making guns, it is a problem inherent in shooting unjacketed lead bullets).

My pistol has poor accuracy. What could be the problem? How do I fix it? – Kimber factory parts and firearms are manufactured to close tolerances for a high degree of accuracy. However, damage, wear, neglect or poor quality ammunition may result in a degradation of accuracy.

And, did you notice how they didn't really answer the questions?

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The FFM ended up with about 40 full time members and more if TSHTF. Now that he had rifles that were accurate to 600-yards, Gary spent more time on the range. He was too old and feeble and out of shape to be a really good marksman, but he got so he could put a full magazine in a silhouette at 600-yards. He also practiced alone with his Mk 15 rifle. He didn't have many of the practice rounds and had to figure out how to reload them. It wasn't really that difficult, but the practice reloads were only good for shooting single shots and not in the magazine.

When Gar-Bear was satisfied with the Mk15 he went ahead and gave the upper receivers, magazines and ammo to Ron and Clarence. He cautioned them that there was no legal source of the ammo and even stolen ammo might be hard to come by. They should get accustomed to shooting the weapons, and get them sighted in, but save as much of the 25mm ammo as possible. Gary was beset by premonitions that the country hadn't seen the last of trouble. Or, maybe it was just that he was old and he wanted to live forever. Once they local boys who joined the militia got over acting like Bubba, they put together an effective little unit. The militia was smaller than Derek and Gary had hoped. They wanted a full platoon, but had to settle for 3 squads, give or take.

Derek eventually got papers from the government discharging him from the Armor unit down in Shreveport. Shreveport had taken a licking, but unlike the Timex watch, hadn't kept on ticking. They were rebuilding, but what remained of the National Guard units had been absorbed into the active duty military. Moreover, gasoline was in short supply and it was a pretty long drive to Shreveport. In order to get there, Derek would have had to go through Little Rock, and he preferred to avoid the community at any cost.

Weapons wise, the FFM was very well equipped. They had 12 of the modified M14 rifles, 3 Barrett M82A1 rifles that could easily be converted to 25mm, the 2 M1A Super Match sniper rifles, Mini-14s, an assortment of handguns and the western type firearms to use in an emergency. A few of the militia fellas had the HK-91's and there was even an occasional G3. Most of the people seemed to prefer the 7.62x51mm rifles to the 5.56x45mm rifles. Although the ammo was heavier, they felt more certain of one-shot kills if they were ever called upon to fire their weapons in anger. The Three Amigos did a little horse-trading on the ammo and used up most of Ron and Clarence's Barrett IMI M33 ball ammo, saving the Raufoss cartridges for times of trouble. As they used up the M33 cartridges, they used Damon's contact to acquire more of the Mk 211 cartridges.

"You seem to be getting along with that horse pretty well, these days," Ron observed. "How did you manage that?"

"I made her an offer she couldn't refuse."

"Oh?"

"Yeah, I took a baseball bat in one hand and an apple in the other. I told her she had a choice."

"Horses can't talk."

"Maybe, maybe not. Have you seen her give me any more trouble?"

"Not really."

"You know fellas we don't really do much farming. I only have an acre or so and Clarence has less land than I do. You're the only person with any appreciable land, partner,

and I wouldn't exactly call 5 acres large. Having that horse of Sharon's makes me more convinced than ever that I ought to get some Belgian draft horses. Maybe a 4-horse team that we could use to pull a plow or a wagon. The thing is, Ron, I can't afford to pay a lot of boarding charges. What if I bought some feed instead?"

"I still have to pay the hired hand, Gar-Bear. But, we can work something out."

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Jed was the leader of the first squad. He worked at Wal-Mart with Derek. Abel (what kind of name is that – he must be a Baptist) was in charge of the second squad. The third squad consisted of The Three Amigos, Gary's 2 boys, David and his 4 sons. Derek was the leader of squad three. Gary and Sharon had a lot of conversations about Derek's medical training in the service because he was a Combat Lifesaver and Sharon couldn't understand why Derek didn't become a Paramedic. If it had been Gary's choice, Derek would stay in school until he became Physician's Assistant. Sharon suggested that they pay for Derek to take EMT training. Arkansas divided the training into 3 levels: EMT –ambulance, Intermediate or Paramedic level. The closest place to get Basic level training was Mountain Home. Maybe they were wrong, but it appeared that the closest place to get all 3 levels of training was Jonesboro.

It took a lot of cajoling to get Derek to agree to take EMT – Ambulance training, but he aced the course. Derek was putting in 16 and 18 hour days getting the training and wasn't sure that he'd go beyond Intermediate level, but it was a start. Maybe Derek didn't share Gary's interest in medicine. Their two most common interests were in fire-arms and knives. Derek's personal interests were in armor and dinosaurs. Gary had only seen an M1A1 Abrams tank when he had visited Derek at Ft. Irwin, when Derek had been taking desert training. It was a danged shame that with all of that training, the Army had sent him to Iraq as an MP.

As with any informal organization, the squads were based as much on friendships as anything else. Jed and Abel were buddies from way back in grade school and their two squads worked like one well-oiled unit. The third squad was mostly a family unit with Ron and Clarence tossed in. If TSHTF, the third squad would grow in size to a double squad or possibly a fourth squad; but, that would mean dividing the third squad into 2 5-man units supplemented with James, Clarence Jr., Ronnie Joe and the women. Unit training was a problem for the third, and possibly fourth, squad. It meant getting Jennifer and Brenda up from Ft. Smith and Clarence Jr. and James up from Little Rock. They only managed to get in one weekend a month. Half the time was spent on the range keeping their weapons skills honed and the other moving around the mountains practicing guerilla-type movements.

All of the younger generation had been very careful when they rebuilt or bought after they'd returned to Ft. Smith or moved to Little Rock. Unless it was a dire emergency, they could weather the storm very well right where they were. All of them had built concrete block storm shelters buried in their backyards and equipped with standby genera-

tors, food, weapons, etc. Each family had a used, closed 6'x12' trailer that they could load their things into and bug out to Flippin in an all-out emergency. It would take them the better part of an hour's work to load their things and leave, but they essentially had 2 options. Two options were twice as many as most people had, because although the US had adopted a Civil Defense program, after WW III (?), most people still relied on the government and didn't make their own preparations.

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Four years into the country's recovery from the event that ended the Cold War, found things greatly changed in the United States. No longer was the US the world's policeman. Once the cleanup was over, Britain, Canada, Mexico and the Australians had returned home and left it to the Americans to rebuild their cities. As mentioned, Congress had gotten into the act with the Uniform Building Code. The companion bill that authorized the tax credit for building shelters also provided for extra federal assistance to communities that put in community shelters and stocked them. In case you're curious where Gonzales, TX is, it is located about 50-60 miles east of San Antonio on US 183. I only bring that up because after the war there was a high demand for certified survey meters and potassium iodide and iodate tablets. The thing is, a survey meter should be recalibrated about every 3 years and Radmeters4U wasn't getting the return business they expected.

You know how it is after any type of disaster, people cleanup and rebuild and many promptly forget all about what put them in the position they found themselves in, in the first place. They forget to replace the batteries for their flashlights, don't exercise that portable generator they were lucky enough to find and slowly used up the extra food they'd inventoried. They were probably all convinced that after a disaster of that magnitude, God was going to give them a free ride for the remainder of their lives. That may just be so, because unless they remained prepared, their life might end up being shorter than they anticipated.

While the odds were totally against something like the San Andreas Fault triggering the Cascadia subduction zone triggering the Long Valley caldera triggering Yellowstone and the New Madrid Fault Zone, never assume that something like that can't happen. If you do, you will make an ass / u / me. If the US dropped the first nuclear weapons on Japan in 1945 and it took until 2007 for nuclear weapons to be used in earnest again, why would anybody assume that they could never be used a third time? The situation between India and Pakistan was an on-again, off-again affair, at best. Israel was no longer on nuclear alert in 2011. A country simply cannot remain on alert all of the time or they lose their edge. The US was watchful, not on alert. That never changed, regardless of what had happened to the country.

Times change and that was never more apparent than when Gary or Ron or Clarence went to the gas pump. As young men, they had usually paid about 21 cents a gallon for gasoline. In the 1970's that all changed and in 2011, the price of unleaded regular (87 octane) was well over \$4 a gallon and closer to \$5 than to \$4. Part of the price differ-

ences around the country could be blamed on environmentalists. Gasoline in California seemed to have more additives than anywhere else in the country and the price reflected it. After the war, gas-guzzlers gave way to very economical vehicles, just like they did in the 1970's. But, 4 years later, some companies began to market larger, less efficient engines.

Perhaps some good had come out of the war. Most of the new buildings were much better equipped to deal with Mother Nature's temper tantrums. The infrastructure had to be rebuilt, eliminating the problems that had existed before with things like the electrical distribution system. Replaced refineries and factories took advantage of the latest in technology and were not only energy efficient but environmentally sound. However, coal was still the cheapest source of electrical power and the journey into relying on the sun, wind and hydroelectric power was advancing only slowly. They no longer used fuel oil to generate electricity, but they still used natural gas. One good bit of good news was that all of the nuclear reactors had their licenses pulled. However, as with anything, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

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Ask yourself what is the government going to do with all of the fuel rods from the 100 or so closed down reactors? Harvest the Plutonium, that's what. They used up about 800 old weapons against China and they needed to be replaced. There is nothing in Start II or I that prohibit the replacement of expended weapons that I'm aware of. It sort of made the folks in Nevada very happy, too. All of the fuel rods in the mountain storage facility had to be removed to eliminate the Plutonium. We all know that sometimes the Government, or more specifically the President, makes a bad decision.

The "Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act of 1998" sounds uncontroversial, and that is the apparent reason no one objected to it. The story of how this bill passed the House and is now ready to be slipped through the Senate without debate is a lesson on how the game of politics is played.

Further investigation revealed there was more to the action than just political opportunism prior to Clinton's re-election. The land in question contained the largest deposit of high-compliance coal in the world. That coal was now in high demand because of environmental concerns over pollution from coal-fired power plants. The 1.7 million acres given up by Utah contains the Kaiporowits coalfield, which is the largest, undeveloped mine in the United States. It has approximately 62 billion tons of low sulfur, clean burning, high-compliance coal. It is one of the premier coalfields in the United States, perhaps the world, according to Dr. Lee Allison, Utah state geologist.

There is one other source of high-compliance coal. It is being aggressively mined on the island of Kalamantan in Indonesia. The mine is reported to be owned by the Red Chinese army and the Lippo Group. James and Mochtar Riady, partners in the Lippo Group, have been implicated in the growing Clinton campaign election scandal. The land swap is touted as the largest in the history of the US giving Utah 139,000 acres for

the loss of 1.7 million acres to form the monument. Utah's loss of 62 billion tons of coal on the Kaiporowits Plateau is to be offset by receipt of 160 million tons of coal in the exchange. Critics say those numbers just don't equate.

"It did not even come close to recognizing the loss of value at the Kaiporowits Plateau, absolutely that's true. The way they're (Utah congressional delegation) perceiving it is that it was lost anyway and this way they got something," explained Randy Johnson, Emery County commissioner and board member of the Utah Association of Counties. Clinton was very clear about his motivations for locking up the coal mine in the middle of 1.7 million acres of Utah desert. "I am concerned about a large coal mine proposed for the area. Mining jobs are good jobs and mining is important to our national economy and to our national security. But we can't have mines everywhere and we shouldn't have mines that threaten our national treasures," said President Clinton shortly after he signed the proclamation in 1996.

"You do not need to create that monument to preserve the land. There's almost 200 state and federal laws protecting it; thousands of federal regulations; law suits that dictate what happens on federal lands. You did not need to create this national monument to preserve that land," said Liston.

Bill Clinton has put 25% of this country's so-called "compliance coal" or "enviro coal" (i.e., clean-burning, low sulfur) off limits with his Executive Order declaring this section of Utah to be a National Park. The remaining 75% of this type of coal happens to be in places that are hard to get to, difficult to mine, difficult to transport coal from, like the mountains of Wyoming, therefore the cost-effectiveness of mining the coal from these other areas is diminished.

Gutmann reports that, under NAFTA, México had to "sign on to" some of our clean air rules, so they are in the process of building new power plants which will require this type of "compliance coal". Utah was to be an export center for all these new Mexican power plants. This would have meant thousands of coal mining and related jobs for Utah. The impact on the environment would have been minimal since this coal would require UNDERGROUND MINING, not strip mining. The coal would have been easily transportable through train lines to Long Beach, California, and there loaded onto barges and shipped to México – that is, until Bill Clinton declared with the sweep of a pen that their coal is untouchable. Now, most likely, the Mexicans will be buying their "compliance coal" from Indonesia.

That was then and this is now and the Congress repealed the ban on mining Utah coal. Not only did it create a lot of jobs in Utah, it improved the environment. Something must be wrong with Congress; they were suddenly being very sensible. Maybe we should hold our breath and wait for the other shoe to drop, it can't be long now. Before you start complaining about what Clinton did in the White House, just remember that George W. Bush didn't reverse the Executive Order either. Very few Executive Orders ever get reversed. The only one that pops into my mind is the Executive Order prohibiting the assassination of foreign leaders.

Officially, the United States does not conduct or permit assassinations. However, this policy is not codified in law, but in an Executive Order (EO 12333) that the President can change at will and without public notice of the change. In addition, this policy does not define what an assassination is, and the United States has long distinguished assassinations as separate from military operations directed against enemy leaders in the course of self-defense.

Executive Order 11905 is a 6,000-word national policy statement on the activities of intelligence services at home and abroad. President Ford signed it on Feb. 18, 1976. Here's one of its simplest orders: "No employee of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, political assassination." Under the Reagan Administration EO 11905 became EO 12333. Sometime between Sept. 11 and Sept. 14, 2001, President Bush signed a secret intelligence order revoking Ford's. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld would confirm the reversal in a CNN interview six weeks later. Assassinations were back on.

On Nov. 3, 2002, an unmanned CIA Predator drone fired at a convoy traveling in Yemen, killing a man believed to be al-Qaida's district manager for Yemen. The CIA didn't know an American was traveling with the convoy. He was killed, so were four other Yemenis. "I can assure you that no constitutional questions are raised here," Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security adviser, said of the assassination, which turned out to be one of many. In his State of the Union address three months later, Bush verged on gloating, Tony Soprano-like, about the productivity of his assassination policy. *While more than 3,000 suspected terrorists have been arrested in many countries, he said, many others have met a different fate. Let's put it this way – they are no longer a problem to the United States and our friends and allies.*

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Barrett would probably adopt Gary's idea about the Raufoss cartridge anyway and claim it was Ronnie's idea all along so if the Squirrel's didn't like someone borrowing a few of those XM109 upper receiver assemblies from the Barrett warehouse, they would just have to get over it. Fleataxi could just go fly his kite or write another chapter. No doubt Barrett had theft insurance anyway, so it would be up to Banacek to figure out how David had gotten around the alarms at the warehouse. Banacek was a Boston Brahmin who maintained his lifestyle by locating or recovering stolen or missing items that were stolen in an extraordinary or peculiar manner, for insurance companies for 10% of their insured value. His friend, Felix, assisted him. He was also not liked by Henry Dewitt, the insurance company rep who doesn't like being beholden to him. And during the second season, he had a rival-love interest in Carlie Kirkland, an insurance investigator who works for DeWitt. Remember, it was only a TV show. And, George Peppard got another gig working for the A Team.

George was a recovering alcoholic (my opinion) who quit smoking in 1992 after having a cancerous tumor removed from his lung. He died in 1994, from pneumonia. Married 5

times, his former wives included: Helen Davies, Elizabeth Ashley and Sherry Boucher. Of the 3 actresses, only Elizabeth Ashley ever remarried (and divorced). Peppard spent much of the latter years of his life helping alcoholics and working for various charitable organizations. (See how one thing leads to another?)

◦

You shouldn't be hard on the Presidents; they're only politicians, not Superman. They can talk out of both sides of their mouths at the same time, telling two entirely different stories, all without moving their lips. Some of what they say is strictly for public consumption. Whether they actually believe what they say is a matter for conjecture. The only thing I've never understood is why they don't become actors after they've been replaced in the White House. They are, to say the least, very accomplished. I never met a politician with whom I couldn't find something wrong. Mr. Clean, Orrin Hatch, had a part in the Utah coal deal and ended up supporting President Clinton. And, sometimes, you even have to wonder about John McCain and how he votes.

"I am not a crook!" Maybe not, but tell me what you really are, Dick. Stupid is what you are. All you had to say was, *So what? Everybody does stuff like this. Or, they exceeded their mandate.* No, you had to lie to the American public and GET CAUGHT. Blame John Dean; a man of conscience has no place in a political administration. The public is used to being lied to by politicians, but they don't like to catch them at it. Ask Bill Clinton and his, *I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me ... I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky.* I don't blame old Bill; he had to get it somewhere, but the Oval Office? Even Jack Kennedy was more discrete than that. He used a hotel in Chicago, or something. Did Bobby have Marilyn killed (sorry)?

◦

I just got to reflecting on what the country would really be like 4 years after China dropped 400 nuclear weapons on it. Despite claims to the contrary, it wouldn't be the end of the world. It would no doubt be very different and with the Democrats in the White House, how long would it be before they tried another Assault Weapons ban? The problem with another Assault Weapons Ban would be that the American public had learned a lesson. Congress, the administration and the judiciary couldn't be counted on to support the 2nd Amendment no matter what the founding fathers had said. This was the 21st Century and people didn't need firearms to feed their families or to protect them.

The Cold War – Chapter 15 – The Economy

BTW, every succeeding chapter begins by being named, 'The Next Chapter'. Somewhere during the chapter, a name for the chapter sort of pops out from the body of the chapter. But I'm sure you already knew that, right? I wonder what the title of chapter 15 will really end up being, maybe, *Bubba, Jr.*, perhaps. I wouldn't want 1340cc to misunderstand the private email I sent. That's why I removed my reply to the missive from Frugal's forum. And if Ronnie Barrett can't stand the assistance, it isn't my fault. A fault is what starts earthquakes you should keep that in mind, Ronnie. Tonight is the 40th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, so I'll probably end up writing another chapter anyway. I'll have to wait until 11pm to watch the Channel 43, Science of Star Wars, episode #2. You know how the ladies and their TV shows are, right? I still didn't get to see the end of *Tidal Wave: No Escape* because it was also on at 8pm. My daughter tells me they aren't watching the CMA because it is the end final episode of *Law & Order – Special Victims*.

(CNN) – British Parliament member George Galloway on Tuesday angrily denied profiting from Saddam Hussein's regime and criticized the Senate panel probing alleged corruption in the UN oil-for-food program in Iraq. I believe him, but only because he's not a US politician. "I am not now or ever been an oil trader and neither has anyone on my behalf. I have never seen a barrel of oil, owned one, bought one, sold one, and neither has anybody on my behalf," Galloway said. "If you had any evidence of that I had ever engaged in any actual oil transaction, if you had any evidence that anybody ever gave me any money, it would be before the public and before this committee today," Galloway said. "Now, I know that standards have slipped over the last few years in Washington, but for a lawyer, you're remarkably cavalier with any idea of justice," he told Coleman.

Galloway, 51, has been a leading critic of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his alliance with US President George Bush in the war with Iraq. He was re-elected on an anti-war platform earlier this month. He said he was "friendly" with former Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and met him many times, but met with Saddam only twice in his career – in 1994 and in 2002, the last time to persuade Saddam to allow UN weapons inspectors into the country. He said he had met with Saddam twice – "exactly as many times as Donald Rumsfeld has met with him. The difference is Donald Rumsfeld met him to sell him guns and give him maps," Galloway said in a heated opening statement. "I met him to try and bring about an end to sanctions, suffering and war, and on the second occasion, I met him to try and persuade him to allow Hans Blix and UN inspectors back into country." Rumsfeld visited Baghdad to meet Saddam as President Reagan's Middle East envoy in the 1980s, when the US sided with Iraq in its war with Iran.

"You have my name on lists provided to you by the Dopher inquiry, provided to him by the convicted bank robber and fraudster and con man Ahmed Chalabi, who many people, to their credit, in your country now realize played a decisive role in leading your country into the disaster in Iraq," Galloway told the Senate panel. "In these circumstances, knowing what the world knows about how you treat prisoners in Abu Ghraib

prison, in Bagram Air Base, in Guantanamo Bay – including, if I may say, British citizens being held in those places – I’m not sure how much credibility anyone would put on anything you manage to get from a prisoner in those circumstances,” he said.

◦

May I ask a question? *What business is it of the Congress of the United States of America what a British citizen did in Britain? Why don't they get off their dead butts and elect a judge or something? Especially when most of that oil ended up in the US anyway? I have to quit reading the paper and the news on the web. Otherwise, I'm going to have a heart attack. I'm beginning to believe that the only good politician is a dead politician. I won't say it, because I don't want the FBI kicking in my door at 3am the day after I post this chapter. The ultimate oxymoron is the term honest politician.*

◦

NEW YORK (AP) – Stocks vaulted higher for a second straight session Tuesday as investors welcomed the Treasury Department’s move to put pressure on the Chinese currency system and, perhaps, eventually reduce the US trade deficit.

The NASDAQ gained 9.72, or 0.49 percent, to 2,004.15, its best close since April 12. Other indicators also moved sharply higher. The Dow rose 79.59, or 0.78 percent, to 10,331.88, after rising 112.17 on Monday. And the Standard & Poor’s 500 index was up 8.11, or 0.7 percent, at 1,173.80.

Investors reacted decisively after the Bush administration declared Tuesday afternoon that China may be using its monetary policies to unfairly affect trade. The Dow jumped 70 points higher in just 23 minutes, finishing with a two-day gain of 191, and the NASDAQ composite index climbed past the 2,000 mark for the first time in more than a month.

Think about the implications of the AP report. You think I make this stuff up. The administration, via the Treasury Department, was stirring up the Chinese? And that news made the Stock Market RISE? The whole dang country was a bunch of warmongers! Should I put in the Duck and Cover link again? I won't bad mouth the FBI, though, I can live with being on a half dozen of their lists because I'm really harmless, but I refuse to tempt fate. Besides, it wasn't me who stole the stuff from Ronnie Barrett and his flunkies. And, FT doesn't have a kite.

◦

The US basically didn't have any troops stationed anywhere in the world besides the United States. The closest thing that the country had to having people overseas was the military liaisons that we maintained with our closest allies, Britain, Canada and Australia. Personally, I'd hardly call 4 officers in each of the countries a military presence. There was an Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force officer in each of the three United

Kingdom countries. Military ranks notwithstanding, they wore civilian clothes to disguise their presence. Except for a few select individuals, few in this country even knew we had those 12 people abroad. Much care was given to selecting these particular officers and they were married to a native of whatever country they were stationed in. If you were to examine the records of the Defense Department, you would find that all of the individuals were listed as 'retired'.

They all had the same simple cover story; they had retired after X number of years of military service and had moved to their spouse's homeland. This was not to say that the United States still didn't do business with several countries, like Norway for example. However, in light of the response of NATO to the attack on the United States by China 4 years earlier, the US was no longer a member of NATO, or so it appeared. It was all very cloak and dagger and under the auspices of the Defense Intelligence Agency. The Director of DIA is a three-star military officer who serves as principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense and to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on matters of military intelligence.

The Director also chairs the Military Intelligence Board, which coordinates activities of the defense intelligence community. The DIA is headquartered at the Pentagon in Washington, DC, with major operational activities at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center (DIAC), Washington, DC, the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC), Frederick, Maryland, and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC), Huntsville, Alabama. With a workforce of about 7,500, highly skilled civilian and military personnel staff the DIA. To maintain the cover of the military liaisons, civilian employees of the DIA maintained contact with the military liaisons. The civilian employees were, in every case, retired DIA military officers.

Why all of the cloak and dagger, you might ask. Remember: The strings turned out to look more like ropes and the President was forced to decline the offer of aid from the UN. To put a point on the end of his sentence, he instructed Condi to inform the UN that the US was withdrawing as a member of that august body. At the moment, he told her; the US had nothing to spare, especially not what remained of its military might. Also: The string that stuck in George's craw the worst was the insistence of the UN that America disarm. If I hadn't made it clear, the US declined Russia's offer of help and the Russians ended up helping China. On the subject of Communism:

One can debate whether communism is an economic system or a political system. According to Wikipedia, the answer is yes. This article is about communism as a form of society built around a gift economy, as an ideology advocating that form of society, and as a popular movement. For issues regarding the organization of the communist movement, see the Communist party article. For issues regarding one-party states ruled by Communist Parties (and everything associated with them), see Communist state.

As a theoretical social and economic system, communism would be a type of egalitarian society with no state, no privately owned means of production, no money and no social classes. In communism, all property is owned cooperatively and collectively, by the

community as a whole, and all people have equal social and economic status and rights. Theoretically, under communism, human need or advancement is not left unsatisfied because of poverty, and is rather solved through distribution of resources as needed. This is thus often the system proposed to solve the problem of the capitalist poverty cycle.

Perhaps the best known maxim of a communist society is *From each according to his ability, to each according to his need*. This economic model is also referred to as a gift economy.

As a political movement, communism is a more radical branch of the broader socialist movement. The communist movement differentiates itself from other branches of the socialist movement through their wish to completely do away with all aspects of market society under the final stage of the system, as well as some communists' commitment to armed revolutionary strategies for overthrowing capitalism, and their focus on the international working class as key in that revolution. Self-described Communist parties successful in overthrowing a state have usually resulted degenerated into authoritarian government. These elements of the communist movement are opposed by Anarcho-communist, Trotskyists and others in the movement. The best-known form of communism is Marxism and its various derivatives.

Within Marxism, there are several different trends. The largest of these trends is Leninism, which was based on the writings and actions of Vladimir Lenin. According to Lenin, capitalism can only be overthrown by a Proletarian Revolution, not by parliamentary means. Furthermore, in opposition to Marx, Lenin argued that the revolution would occur first in the less developed nations, and that it would require a "vanguard of the proletariat" composed of a relatively small, tightly organized Communist Party of workers declassed intellectuals. Most (but by no means all) present-day communists are of the Leninist variety.

That is a little background, only, and if you want to know more on the subject, read it yourself. The information is included only to explain why in 2011, Russia was still a communist nation. I can see 2 reasons; people wanted something for nothing and others wanted power. It also explained why the US was keeping a very low profile around the world. After a country has been battered by an enemy with ~ 400 nuclear weapons, it learned to hold its cards very close to its vest. The US and Russia stopped asking each other about how many nuclear weapons the other had. The US had as many as they always had, minus none.

The US also learned a lot about making first strikes. If you're going to strike the enemy first, it had better be decisive and you'd darn well better have an exit strategy. You didn't shoot them in the foot like the US had done with China in 2007; you decapitated them at the beginning. The entire world had learned that lesson. The Cold War wasn't over; it had only gone into hiding. And, that, my friends, was why the US was involved in all the cloak and dagger. No doubt the Russians were playing the same sort of game, but it was a case of don't ask – don't tell. Is there something familiar about that expression? It

was President Clinton's policy about queers in the military. I'm not trying to be politically correct, here. To me, gay is a term meaning happily excited.

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The FFM also knew the rules about first strikes. Perhaps that explained why the diminutive platoon was well armed. According to FM 3-21.9, Chapter 1, a rifle squad is composed of 1 Squad Leader, 2 (Fire) Team Leaders, 2 Grenadiers (M-203), 2 Automatic Riflemen (M-249), 1 Anti-tank Specialist (AT-4, etc.) and 1 Designated Marksman (he has the rifle), e.g. 9 soldiers. Stated another way, 3 Chiefs and 6 Indians. The FFM's squads consisted of 1 Leader, 3 M14's (Automatic Riflemen), 1 M16/M203 (40mm Grenadier), 1 Sniper (Designated Marksman), 1 25mm Grenadier and 3-7 riflemen armed with semi-automatic 7.62x51mm rifles. Add it up; it was 10-14 individuals, 1 Chief and 9-13 Indians.

The organization wasn't the same as the Army because they had to make do with what they had. They didn't, for example, have any AT-4's or LAW rockets so they had to avoid armor. The sniper was armed with an accurate 7.62x51mm rifle, a Super Match or a scoped hunting rifle and the Barrett rifles were equipped as M109's. They had no hand grenades, C-4 or Claymores, just dynamite. Improvise. Adapt. Overcome. Now do you see the point? This particular group didn't have any of those commie guns, as in AK-47's or their derivatives. The favored form of attack was the ambush. FT had it perfect in Chapter 12 of The Big One II, except that he had Claymore mines. Don't mess around with an enemy – kill them all. That was a dangd good exit strategy.

Clarence caused a ruckus one weekend when he showed up wearing his 10th Cavalry uniform and carrying his bugle. Jeb and Abel were about ready to look for a rope before Clarence explained about the uniform.

"This is a 10th Cavalry uniform. The 10th were Indian fighters and weren't formed until 1866," Clarence explained. "On August 3, 1866, Gen. Phillip Sheridan, commander of the Military Division of the Gulf, was authorized to raise one regiment of "colored" cavalry that was to be designated the 9th Regiment. A recruiting office was established in New Orleans, Louisiana and later that fall, a second office was opened in Louisville, Kentucky. Of the original recruits, the majority came from these two states and were veterans of the Civil War. Enlistment was for five years, with recruits receiving thirteen dollars a month, plus room, board, and clothing. The 10th Cavalry was formed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1866. The regiments' commander and Civil War hero Benjamin Grierson set very high standards of recruitment. As a result, recruitment and organization of the unit required slightly over one year. By the end of July 1867 eight companies of enlisted men had been recruited from the Departments of Missouri, Arkansas, and the Platte."

"Look, we can't be fighting over something silly like Clarence honoring the 10th Cavalry," Ron butted in. "Why don't you Johnny Rebs get yourself some of those grey uni-

forms? That was a stupid war but it ended 145 years ago. There nothing wrong with a man honoring his heritage.”

The following month, about half of the local volunteers showed up wearing grey uniforms. There weren't any 2 alike. If you knew your history, you also know that during the Civil War, the local Arkansas Regiments had to provide their own uniforms and every Regiment's was a little different and many homemade. James and Clarence Jr. were also wearing 10th Calvary uniforms, but Ron and Gary were wearing Levis or Wranglers, western cut shirts and tennis shoes.

One Story about Taps:

We have all heard the haunting song, *Taps*. It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats; but do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the south when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as *Taps* used at military funerals, was born.

A second story about Taps:

“I was much interested in reading the article by Mr. Gustav Kobbe, on the Trumpet and Bugle Calls, in the August Century. Mr. Kobbe says that he has been unable to trace the origin of the call now used for Taps, or the Go to sleep, as it is generally called by the soldiers. As I am unable to give the origin of this call, I think the following statement may be of interest to Mr. Kobbe and your readers.... During the early part of the Civil War I was bugler at the Headquarters of Butterfield's Brigade, Morell's Division, Fitz-John Porter's Corp, Army of the Potomac. Up to July 1862, the Infantry call for Taps

was that set down in Casey's Tactics, which Mr. Kobbe says was borrowed from the French. One day, soon after the seven days battles on the Peninsular, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison's Landing, General Daniel Butterfield, then commanding our Brigade, sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me.

"After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night, and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music, which I gladly furnished. I think no general order was issued from army headquarters authorizing the substitution of this for the regulation call, but as each brigade commander exercised his own discretion in such minor matters, the call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac. I have been told that it was carried to the Western Armies by the 11th and 12th Corps, when they went to Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, and rapidly made its way through those armies. I did not presume to question General Butterfield at the time, but from the manner in which the call was given to me, I have no doubt he composed it in his tent at Harrison's Landing. I think General Butterfield is living at Cold Spring, New York. If you think the matter of sufficient interest, and care to write him on the subject, I have no doubt he will confirm my statement." -Oliver W. Norton

Other stories of the origin of Taps exist. A popular, yet false, one is that of a Northern boy who was killed fighting for the south. His father, Robert Ellicombe, a Captain in the Union Army, came upon his son's body on the battlefield and found the notes to Taps in a pocket of the dead boy's Confederate uniform. He had the notes sounded at the boy's funeral. There is no evidence to back up the story or the existence of a Captain Ellicombe. In the interest of historical accuracy, it should be noted that General Butterfield did not compose Taps; rather that he revised an earlier call into the present day bugle call we know as Taps. This is not meant to take credit away from him. Another story claims that Taps was a Confederate bugle call. It appears that Taps was actually a variation of a French bugle call written in 1619.

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In the final analysis, the Cold War was over conflicting ideologies, Democracy and Communism. As long as both existed anywhere on the planet, the Cold War wasn't over. The little militia that was formed in Flippin, Arkansas existed only to protect the homes of the members and perhaps the town. It had almost been started as a joke when Gar-Bear got to thinking about his stories and the Palmdale Militia he'd dreamed up. The FFM didn't make the FBI's top 10 list; they were too small and rather secretive. It was more about being prepared for an eventual emergency than anything else. David was safe because George Peppard (Banacek) had died in 1995.

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What would the next disaster be, World War whatever+1? Some sort of natural disaster? An economic disaster seems somehow more appropriate. Where would all the money come from to rebuild America after a nuclear war? It is doubtful that the government could raise money from taxes because there would be little income to tax. The government of the US seems to think that the answer to the money problem is the printing press, both to print money and to print loan papers so the government can borrow the money.

With gas hovering in the neighborhood of \$5 a gallon in 2011, people were trying to avoid travel as much as possible. The auto manufacturers were having trouble unloading the inefficient, gas-guzzling engines that they'd slipped back into producing. With a combined acreage of maybe 6½ acres, The Three Amigos weren't producing any bio-diesel. They were buying all of their fuels and paying dearly. On Tuesday, October 29th, 1929 the US stock market crashed. If you check Wikipedia, there are several different Black Tuesdays, including Tuesday 9/11/01.

As told in the Koran (Qur'an), Tuesday was the day that Allah created the darkness. The 11th of September, when suicide pilots crashed American airlines into skyscrapers, I didn't have to leave my television set to know what the day was: Black Tuesday had cast its shadow over Manhattan and all the way to the Potomac River. And neither was it a surprise that, despite the \$7 trillion that we have spent since 1958 on what is euphemistically called the defense budget, there was no warning from the FBI, CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency, or any other institutions. Neither was there a single combat plane that was able to fulfill its obligation. (Gore Vidal)

"...euphemistically called the defense budget..." pretty much tells you where Gore Vidal stands on the issues. Give me George Will any day.

The economy and the expectations of the economy control the stock markets. There are as many reasons for the ups and downs of the markets as there are investors. The markets aren't the economy, merely representative of peoples' expectations of the economy. \$5 a gallon gasoline and a multi-trillion federal deficit finally combined to polish off the economy and the country at the same time. Late in 2011 and early in 2012, inflation was rampant. A dollar was barely worth the paper it was printed on. The average American spends about 7 percent of his or her total income on food, or about 10 percent of his or her disposable income (source: American Farm Bureau). According to statistics from the United Nations, even people in high-income nations like Australia, Great Britain and Japan spend about 20 percent of their disposable income on food. In India, the average is 50 percent. Some underdeveloped countries have even higher percentages of income spent on food.

The cost of producing food is closely tied to the cost of hydrocarbons. Farmers use diesel or gasoline to power their equipment. The ingredients for the production of anhydrous ammonia are: air, natural gas and steam. When hydrocarbons became expensive, so did food. The average American farmer feeds 120 people, but he isn't in the

business for his health. Farmers generally don't farm organically anymore, e.g., use the manure from their livestock to fertilize the fields.

Most of the members of the FFM grew gardens, greatly reducing the cost of their food. They were prepared and pretty much self-sufficient. The same could not be said for the rest of the country. In February of 2012, the automatic mechanisms that shut down the stock markets began to kick in daily as investors lost confidence. The price of food had risen to 20%+ of the average American's disposable income. The price of gasoline had slipped up to nearly \$6 a gallon.

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Reports of food riots in the major cities combined with the collapse of the economy are the primary stories this evening," the announcer droned. "Gasoline has risen to all-time highs, reaching well over \$6 a gallon in San Francisco. The cost of fuel has led to a rise in the cost of food, which is currently estimated to be over 20% of the average American's disposable income.

In Los Angeles today, the inability of people to pay for the higher priced foods led to a food riot in a grocery store in Torrance. The Governor of California was forced to call in the California State Defense Force to quell the riot. As our viewers no doubt remember, there haven't been any separate state National Guard units since 2007 when President Bush was forced to place all National Guards units on permanent federal duty.

There was also sporadic rioting in Detroit, Chicago and New Jersey. Senior citizens in Florida held a peaceful demonstration in Miami. Despite Congress authorizing the states to raise state defense forces, many states have elected not to do so. As of this moment, less than 30 states have defense forces of their own, leaving containment of the violence to police and other peace officers. At a White House press conference the President's press secretary described the situation as deplorable and promised that federal troops would only be used as a last resort to restore order.

"How is everyone on supplies?" Ron asked.

"The only things we've been buying at Wal-Mart are the things that Sharon and I can't produce by ourselves," Gary replied. "I've had a feeling something like this might happen and I've loaded up on the essentials, like coffee and cigarettes. I refuse to pay \$1.79 a pound for bananas so some of the things we usually buy are no longer in our diet."

"Clarence, what's the situation with Shirley and you?" Ron asked.

"About the same, Ron. What spare space we had in the shelter is full of coffee, smokes, toilet paper and the other essentials. If push comes to shove, I think we can get by for well over a year and longer if I can get more Marlboro's and Folgers. We did right fine on our garden this year."

“Ronnie Joe lost his job and Jennifer has been steadily losing clients at her daycare center,” Ron explained. “Paula called and said that Hormel laid Mark off, too. I told her to pack up a few things and come to Flippin for a while.”

“Derek said that Wal-Mart had issued a directive freezing wages for all of their stores,” Gary added.

“Is he going to lose his job too?” Clarence asked.

“God, I hope not.”

“It’s about the same everywhere, fellas. James called this morning and said that the cost of living in Little Rock was getting unbearable. I half expect James and Junior to show up any day and move in with us.”

“I don’t believe that any of the fine folks in Flippin will end up rioting over food,” Ron suggested. “Everyone here is reasonably self-sufficient.”

“That doesn’t mean we won’t get outsiders, Ron,” Gary responded. “Maybe we ought to talk to Jed and Abel and see what they think about putting the militia on a low alert level.”

The Cold War – Chapter 16 – Deceptions and Other Things

“Arkansas doesn’t have a state defense force, what if food riots break out in the large cities?” Clarence asked.

“You mean like Little Rock, Ft. Smith and Fayetteville?”

“And others.”

“Maybe it’s time to circle the wagons,” Gary suggested.

“Clarence, do you agree?” Ron asked.

“Ron, it’s going to happen eventually, maybe we should try to get a jump on the situation.”

“We’d better all talk to our wives before we do anything drastic,” Gary added.

“I’ve noticed that you’re nicer to Sharon since you bought her the Ruger revolver,” Ron laughed.

“I was ok for a while, but she insisted on learning how to shoot the flippin’ thing.”

“Is she any good?”

“At 20’, it doesn’t make much difference.”

“I wonder if this isn’t a situation where we ought to think about upgrading our weapon systems,” Clarence suggested.

“Where is the nearest Army post?”

“I don’t know about the nearest, but I think our best bet would be the Pine Bluff Arsenal. They have Conventional Ammunition, Chemical Biological Defense, Engineering and Technical Support, Mobile and Powered System Support and Base Operations Support to tenant activities.”

“Where is Pine Bluff?”

“South of Little Rock.”

“Where’s the Arsenal?”

“North of town.”

“Can we pull it off?”

“Necessity is the mother of invention. We’d better keep it strictly family... loose lips sink ships.”

“What’s on the shopping list?”

“Hand grenades, 40mm grenades, LAW/AT-4 rockets, Claymores, ammunition including 5.56, 7.62 and .50 caliber, MOPP suits and gas masks, night vision equipment and SINCGARS radios.”

“How about some medium machine guns?”

“Whatever we can find.”

“When do you want to go?”

“Why wait? They’ll only increase their security when things get worse.”

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The Army had already increased its security at all of its installations. Derek wore his uniform and Gary found fatigues and a cigar so he could pretend to be a Sergeant. Derek called the Colonel at Pine Bluff.

“Sir, this is Staff Sergeant Ott. Sorry to bother you sir, we have an emergency and need some tents for the displaced people in Little Rock. We could leave immediately if you could arrange for us to get what we need.”

“Sergeant Ott, how have you been? You say you need tents?”

“Yes Sir and your facility will be locked up tight when we arrive. It’s going to take a while to get there because of the situation in Little Rock.”

“I’ll leave orders to give you what you need whenever you get here Sergeant.”

“Thank you sir, we need to get these people sheltered as soon as possible.”

“Sergeant Major, Colonel Jessup. We have some people coming down from Little Rock for some emergency supplies. You call and smooth the way so when they show up they get what they need. The Sergeant told me it might be late.”

Derek used his computer to dummy up some forms and off they went to Little Rock and Pine Bluff. Derek had worked in supply for a time when he was on active duty. Gary was an E-9 and Derek was an E-6. They drove a tractor-trailer rig with the others in back. When they got to the gate at oh-dark-thirty, the gate guard told them that supply was

standing by, if they were the people who had called. Gary told the MP that they were from Little Rock and they'd had one hell of a time getting there.

"Can I help you?" the Corporal asked.

"We're from Little Rock, we called ahead."

"I'll check."

"The Sergeant Major said they talked to Colonel Jessup. Jessup said to give them what they need and get them on their way. Do it Corporal."

"I have to see some ID," the Corporal insisted.

"Sergeant, show him your ID," Gary instructed Derek.

"Corporal, here's the requisition," Derek said. "You just point the way, soldier, and we'll load it ourselves, we have a loading crew of civilians from Little Rock."

"What are you planning on here, another world war? That's a lot of matériel."

"Soldier, you're not paid to think," Gary said. "Who the hell do you think you are questioning, what was his name Sergeant?"

"Colonel Jessup."

"Questioning Colonel Jessup," Gary continued. "What is the Army coming to these days? Call them back so I can talk to them."

"Sorry Sergeant Major, I was just trying to follow my third General Order."

"I understand Corporal and you made the call. Now, should Staff Sergeant Ott call Colonel Jessup back again, or can you handle the situation?"

"I can handle it."

"Now is there anything on the list you can't provide?"

"What do you need mines and rockets for?" the soldier asked.

"The Colonel said to get mines and rockets. What can I tell you, I'm only following orders, like you should be?"

The best place to get military armaments is an arsenal or a depot. It is especially good if you have a soldier who knows where everything is located and has keys to all of the locks. Munitions are stored separately and not guarded by the regular MP's, but the

Colonel had greased the wheels. The cigar was making Gary sick to his stomach and his mood matched his discomfort. The Corporal had called the Top, and they'd made it pretty clear he was to expedite the matter. It was about 0600 when they finished loading the semi. They told the Corporal they were headed for Little Rock. They cleared the post about 30 minutes before the Top showed up in supply and headed west on US 270. It was a very long way around to get back to Flippin and would actually put them in Ft. Smith, except they got off US 270 and headed north on state route 7.

They'd changed the decals on the side of the trailer and it was now a company owned vehicle for a mattress company and Damon was driving because he was formerly a professional trucker. Damon is a little on the crazy side, but he knew enough to seal the load and go off on anyone who dared stop him. He had the perfect cover story, he was lost and the roads in Arkansas were from the Dark Ages. All he wanted to do was find highway (pick a number) and be gone from the fine state of Arkansas. The number of the highway and his destination were flexible, depending on where he got stopped, if he got stopped.

"Does anybody have some Pepcid? That cigar made me sick to my stomach."

"You could have been a Sergeant in the Army," Derek laughed. "Your behavior was a little dated"

"I think my acting was appropriate to my age," Gary replied. "What's going to happen to the Corporal?"

"He was following orders, nothing," Derek said.

"Won't they get fingerprints off those papers?"

"Nope," Derek replied and began peeling the dried liquid bandage off his fingers.

o

"Who added MRE's to our requisition?"

"I sort of figured that if we really had to activate the militia we'd need something to eat if we were on the road," Derek replied.

"I hope you got extra Tabasco sauce."

"We can get that at the store."

The Claymore mines were packed in the M7 bandoleers with all of the accessories at 6 bandoleers per case. They had 50 cases. The 40mm grenades we packed in differing numbers to the case, depending upon which grenade was involved. Each box of HE, HEDP, and TP ammunition contained 1 can with 6 bandoleers of 12 rounds each, for a

total of 72 rounds. Each wire-bound box of smoke and cluster ammunition contained 2 cans with 22 rounds each, for a total of 44 rounds. Each box of CS ammunition contained 2 cans with 4 bandoleers of 6 rounds each, for a total of 48 rounds. Each box of buckshot ammunition contained 12 bandoleers of 6 rounds each, for a total of 72 rounds. They only had 4 M16/M203 rifles, so they limited the requisition to 8 boxes of HE ammunition.

“Because of the Marine Corps, the LAW rockets had been reintroduced in 2005 and the Corporal had readily supplied what they wanted along with several cases of the M67 hand grenades. How many hand grenades in a case? Look on the net and find the answer if you can, I can't. I asked the Green Beret across the street and he guessed 24. Army FM 3-23.30 states that if the grenade is upside down in its container to return it to the issuer. It turns out that each M67 was individually packed in its own container with 30 containers to the case. You weren't to remove an upside down grenade from the container because you couldn't see the pin or the safety clip. During Vietnam, they packed grenades differently. Each man got 1 white smoke and 1 colored smoke grenade, allowing the Squad Leader full access to the 4 different colors of smoke, yellow, red, green and violet.”

“Derek seemed to think the Army's organization was better, but he was a tanker, not a permanent infantryman. They reached a compromise by appointing one Assistant Squad Leader who was also a rifleman. In the event that they needed to divide the squads into 2 fire teams each team would have a leader and they wouldn't lose one of their heavier weapons guys. On the subject of the medium machineguns, the M240B 7.62mm medium machine gun was Army standard issue. Regular belts come 2 100-round belts to the ammo can. The belts were either M80 Ball and M62 Tracer 4 to1 or M993 AP and M994 APT, again 4 to1. Each of the M240B's came with a spare barrel that unlike the Ma Deuce didn't have to be head spaced and timed when it was installed. They had 4 of the machine guns, one for each of 4 squads. They also had 60,000 rounds of belted ammo.

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Gary had spent hours on the web a few years before looking for the pen guns. The pen gun flare supports the small unit leader in fire control, maneuver, and initiating operations such as ambushes. Kit 1 is the pen gun flare with a threaded projector with the projectiles contained in a cloth bandoleer. Each of the signals listed below may be fired from a handheld projector while in a bandoleer. The nomenclature of the kits were:

Red illumination ground signal, M187.

White illumination ground signal, M188.

Green illumination ground signal, M189.

Amber illumination ground signal, M190.

The projector and the bandoleer plus seven projectiles or signals make up the signal kit. All signals may be obtained and fired separately. The M185 red signal kit contains only

red signals. The M186 signal kit contains three red, two white, and two green signals. They had several of the M186 pen gun kits. Whatever happened to the pen gun?

The Company was founded in 1960 when a man and his two sons working on a Junior Achievement Project, created a personal tear gas protection device called a Pen Gun. As the story goes, the black and white pen-like device reminded the boys of a penguin – Penguin Industries was born. During its first decade the company expanded its interests from the manufacture of Pen Guns to the production of tear gas products, signal flares, and various pyrotechnics for the United States government and law enforcement agencies. In 1969 Penguin acquired the Frank A. Hoppe Company. Penguin grew Hoppe's into the world's largest and most respected manufacturer of gun care products and shooting accessories. By the early 1970s Penguin had gotten out of the pyrotechnics business to concentrate on its new company, Hoppe's. In 1977 Penguin added Protecto Plastics, Inc., a leading manufacturer of quality thermoformed plastic gun, archery and multipurpose carrying cases, and folded the company into Hoppe's.

That all seems to be a little confusing, doesn't it? The company that makes the M186 pen gun got out of the business in the early 1970's, right? FM 3-23.30 is dated 1Sep00. Maybe Orion makes them now. Or, maybe it's Kodiak Security Products in Canada. The Space Shuttle crew wears escape equipment over the CAPS during launch and entry. It consists of an emergency oxygen system; parachute harness, parachute pack with automatic opener, pilot chute, drogue chute and main canopy; a life raft; 2 liters of emergency drinking water; flotation devices; and survival vest pockets containing a radio/beacon, signal mirror, shroud cutter, pen gun flare kit, sea dye marker, smoke flare and beacon. Manual activation of the parachute automatic opening sequences is provided, as well as manual release of the parachute main canopy. Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager had pen gun signaling devices on the Voyager. I met Dick about 3 years ago. If I could drive to Mojave, I'd go ask him where they got them.

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Pen guns are illegal in California. What isn't? Sometimes I think that the only that that's legal in California is to be gay and I don't mean a term meaning happily excited.

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The militia was now equipped to deal with almost any situation that popped up. They would have to do it the old fashioned way without all of the smart weapons. If something happened. Something had to happen with the economy in the crapper. When I asked my neighbor about the grenades, we began a conversation about the state the world is in. He was quick to point out that the links between the Bush family and the Saudis went back 3 generations. He also said that if anyone else had done what the Saudis had done to us, we would have already destroyed their country.

Osama and most of the 9/11 terrorists were Saudi. Many of the Iraqi insurgents are Saudi, in his opinion. Most of the money that Osama uses to fund his continuing opera-

tions probably comes from the House of Saud, in my opinion. I mentioned that FT elected Arnold President and Arnold bombed the Saudis. You should have seen his grin. The Saudis have the largest proven oil reserves in the world. Their expectations are that they will be able to increase their proven reserves to 1 Trillion barrels of oil. They'll probably hire Halliburton to do the exploration.

The Social Security Administration had given a 4% COLA for 2011 and 5.7% COLA for 2012. Gary and Sharon were losing ground on the personal income but the Trust Fund Manager had invested much of the fund into government bonds and they were paying a pretty good interest rate. The Social Security Fund is a Trust Fund, too. None of the money can be used for other government spending. What does the SSA invest our money in? Government bonds. SSA, in and of itself, might never go broke. The problem was the extra programs that FDR never envisioned like SSI, Medicare, etc. and the government getting their hands on the Social Security Trust Fund, legally.

◦

The first hint of trouble came when the gas stations began limiting fuel purchases to 10 gallons. That led to further trouble because they used diesel fuel to deliver food. The food got to the grocery stores, but it was getting extremely expensive. People began to cut back, eating a lot of macaroni and cheese and other lower priced foods. If you had your own milk, and the cultures, you could make your own cheese. Even that was difficult because they had to ship the cheese cultures to you and you needed your own cow. Ron had turned to making a little because they didn't drink all of the milk the cow produced and it wasn't enough to sell.

Gary and Sharon had reached a compromise on the chili years before. She used diced tomatoes and didn't overcook the chili, leaving the tomato pieces whole. She never seemed to understand that she was a sizable woman because she ate too much. Her latest kick was eating brown rice instead of white because white bread and white rice made you fat. As long as she kept the bills paid and money on hand for cigarettes and coffee, Gary didn't care. Somewhere along the way he'd stopped living to eat and started eating to live. He also had most of the things he valued in life like firearms, medicine and a roof over his head.

◦

"I'm telling you, this economy of ours is a disaster waiting to happen," Gary remarked to Ron. "How many days have they had to suspend trading on the markets?"

"Dang if I know, Gar-Bear, I don't follow the markets."

"Right now there's more food in the stores than people can afford to buy. That's going to make the farmer's cut back on production and next year the shelves may well be bare."

“I don’t know about you, but I couldn’t cram another thing into my shelter storage room,” Ron responded.

“I have a little room, partner. I might just stock on some of those essentials. In relative terms some things are still moderately cheap. Next year we might not be able to get them.”

“If I know you, you’ll get carried away like you always do. Where are you going to put the new building?”

“What new building?”

“The one you’re going to build to hold your beans and rice.”

“Next to the garage.”

“See.”

“D-E-F-G, need I go on? We’re going to frame a slab and order a load of concrete. It doesn’t have to be fancy. We can probably get by with just screeding the concrete level and putting up an uninsulated frame with some plastic siding and a cheap roof. It won’t need windows, just a door and a string of lights.”

◦

Senior officials from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms (ATF) and Explosives told a Senate panel Wednesday of their growing concern over these groups. Of particular concern are the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF).

John Lewis, the FBI’s deputy assistant director for counterterrorism, said animal and environmental rights extremists have claimed credit for more than 1,200 criminal incidents since 1990. The FBI has 150 pending investigations associated with animal rights or eco-terrorist activities, and ATF officials say they have opened 58 investigations in the past six years related to violence attributed to the ELF and ALF.

In the same period violence from groups like the Ku Klux Klan and anti-abortion extremists have declined, Lewis said.

Apparently there weren’t enough terrorists in the world; we had to grow our own. These people were mostly liberals who had their head stuck where the sun didn’t shine. If it were up to them, we would all be vegetarians.

◦

The price of precious metals usually rises in a failing economy. Gary had used some of his to make some purchases way back when, but when the price came down, he replaced them. Silver had proven to be more volatile than gold. When the price came down sharply, Gary and Sharon bought. Then the economy went to hell and they were pretty proud of themselves.

The building turned out to be nothing more than a very large shed, with the inexpensive, round porcelain fixtures and bare bulbs. It was covered over by a sloped roof with a couple of layers of tarpaper and cheap shingles. Shingles are relatively expensive because they are made out of asphalt, a hydrocarbon. In addition to the lights and food, they added another 24 ft³ freezer, filled with vacuum packed hamburger.

My neighbor said that when we bombed Saudi Arabia, we should use neutron bombs so we didn't damage the oil wells. I don't care either way, as long as I don't have to help bury the bodies. He also pointed out that he was in Saudi Arabia in the '80's and they routinely threw Bibles into trashcans. Bush's personal financial ties to Saudis run deep: According to various sources, Bush has been awash in Saudi money for years. Journalist/author Craig Unger in his new book "House of Bush, House of Saud" traced millions "in investments and contracts that went from the Saudis over the past 20 years to companies in which the Bushes and their allies have had prominent positions - Harken Energy, Halliburton, and the Carlyle Group among them." According to the Boston Herald, that includes a \$1 million gift from Prince Bandar to the Bush Presidential Library in Texas. Are we going to have 2 Bush Libraries? (I won't bring up the Trilateral Commission or the Round Table.)

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A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: *From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage; From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance; From abundance to selfishness; From selfishness to apathy; From apathy to dependence; From dependence back into bondage.* - Alexander Fraser Tytler (later Lord Alexander Fraser Woodhouslee), in *The Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic*, published 1776.

A powerful quote that stirs and frightens me. Yet every day I observe at least half the nation succumb to apathy and dependence. For most of the last 50 years, liberalism has entrenched itself in our society. Democrats, mainstream newspapers, network news, and even much of our entertainment, have promoted liberal ideals.

In that time, our tax burden has become the largest it's ever been in peacetime, millions are now dependent on welfare, social security, Medicare and Medicaid, and much of

today's society is shredded by teen moms, single-parent households, and an overall lack of morality.

Criminals, the homeless, drug addicts – all victims. In fact, we're a society of victims. A woman murders her five children because she's a victim of postpartum depression. A man rapes numerous women because he was a victim of child abuse. Another person shoplifts repeatedly because she's a victim of an addiction to stealing.

So where does all this leave us? Well, certainly there is no individual responsibility anymore. So who will protect us? Take care of us? According to liberals, the federal government. With every new law, and every new bill created to protect us from ourselves, we sacrifice more freedom. Is it really worth it?

Liberals that I talk to, or the ones who read this, undoubtedly will shake their heads at such a leap. They know that *things are not what they were 200 years ago, the environment needs to be protected from evil corporations, minorities can't make it without government help, patients need a bill of rights, etc., etc.*

In fact, now I'd say, it's hip to be liberal – at least if you live on either coast, or in a large city. This frightens me. But, it's the root of these beliefs that frightens me more than anything else – a simple ignorance of basic history. The most obvious lesson of history is, "those who do not learn from it are doomed to repeat it." Yet, for all of recorded civilization, we've done just that. And it seems our nation may be no different. The quote is one of my favorites, George Santana.

Giving money and power to Government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. – P. J. O'Rourke

The foregoing was penned before 9/11/01 by a fellow named Jason Wang. The US declared its independence in 1776, well over 200 years ago.

The Cold War – Chapter 17 – A Shocking Surprise

Where was it all going to lead? Wang was right when he referred to an apathetic American public, but he was wrong when he concluded that people always depended on the government. In order to be able to depend on the government, one has to have a government one can depend upon. Over the course of 230+ years, the democracy that Americans held so dear had begun to unravel at the seams. When the rights of animals were more important than the rights of people, and other people just stood by and didn't object, somebody, somewhere, had to know the system was in decline. This is not about another Revolutionary War. That would be illegal.

It is about the inevitable evolution in the country known as the United States of America. There were some in the country who wanted to grab the country back from the liberals. These people wanted to restore morality, decency and independence. These people were few and far between. They didn't want another Civil War, which would be counter-productive. What they really wanted was to be left alone and for the government to do what it was supposed to instead of telling them how to live their lives. That's an interesting question, what is the government supposed to do?

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Hmm, how do things like that happen?

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is

their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new guards for their future security...

The Constitution, Article III, § 3:

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

If you want to know more about the subject, read my story entitled, *Title 18*. The Congress, in its infinite wisdom, wasn't satisfied with the simple description of Treason in the Constitution, they rewrote it in USC, Title 18. You find the whole thing in Chapter 1 of that story. The Three Amigos didn't want any trouble; they just wanted to live in peace and have a little food on the table, gas in their tanks and to be left alone. One other thing, Social Security Retirement funds aren't a gift from the government. Social Security Retirement funds are the return of the money the government took from you and your employer, perhaps with a little interest, back when you were working. They are not an Entitlement like welfare. It is YOUR money.

Go back to the Declaration of Rights and the Constitution. Do I detect a contradiction or perhaps a latent ambiguity between the two documents? They teach you words like that in Law School, you know. Hey, don't get angry with me; I'm just pointing out what I perceive to be a dichotomy.

◦

Latent Ambiguity: An ambiguity that does not readily appear in the language of a document, but instead arises from a collateral matter when the document's terms are applied or executed.

Treason: The offense of attempting to overthrow the government of one's country or of assisting its enemies in war

Corruption of Blood: Corruption of Blood was part of ancient English penalty for treason. It was usually part of a Bill of Attainder, which normally sentenced the accused to death. The corruption of blood would forbid the accused's family from inheriting his property. Such bills and punishments were often inflicted upon Tories by colonial governments immediately following independence.

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Get it? Good! I'm just bringing up a little point about a possible conflict I noticed. There was only so much money to go around among The Three Amigos and their families. They concentrated on buying things they couldn't produce and producing what things that they could. Eventually, as things got worse, Ronnie Joe and Jennifer, along with Brenda, her former husband and their little boy showed up in Flippin. So did Mark and Paula. And as far as that goes, James and Junior and their families were there, too. All of a sudden The Three Amigos were paying the living costs of three times as many people on their meager incomes. It really wasn't so bad, but the kids, who had homes in Ft. Smith and Little Rock couldn't even give their homes away, let alone sell them.

Eventually the Army figured out it had been had when the folks showed up at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. It took them quite a while because Colonel Jessup had given an order and there wasn't really any reason to question it. It only came to light when one Sergeant Major mentioned something to the Colonel's Sergeant Major who said something to the Colonel about supplying the munitions and supplies for that problem in Little Rock. The SM was curious because there had been no news about any problems in Little Rock and the SM that had been along with the SS to pick up the supplies had been under arms and had mentioned something about Fayetteville to the Corporal. It was highly irregular for the SM and SS who picked up the supplies to be under arms.

The ensuing discussion found the missing supplies somehow otherwise accounted for. This wasn't the Army way because the Army did things by the book. Conversely, you don't get to be an E-9 or O-6 by not knowing how to use a broom (sweeping things under the carpet). The thieves hadn't even filled up the semi-trailer and the SM thought it odd that they only took enough matériel for a small group of people. They had taken very few firearms, only the 4 M240B machine guns. Maybe, the SM reasoned, Arkansas did have a state Defense Force after all albeit small. And they already had most of their own equipment judging by what they'd requisitioned, mostly consumables. Both men concluded that whoever scammed them had a military background, probably Army, because he knew exactly how to manipulate the system and generate the proper forms. No doubt the identity and the ID card the SS had were false, who would be STUPID enough to use his own name?

o

The timing of things can be pretty strange. One would have thought that things would have gone to Hell in a handcart immediately following the nuclear exchange. They hadn't and a few friendly nations had pitched in to help. The strain was more than the country could bear, however, and eventually things really did begin to go to Hell in a handcart. That's the way things work, you know. It is always darkest before the dawn and just when everything is getting good, someone always rains on your parade. Some folks call it fatalism.

"We're going to have to start taking horses and wagons to the store," Clarence observed. "Between buying just the necessities and keeping everything topped off, Shirley and I can't afford gasoline any longer."

"I sort of figured having our own herds of livestock would come in handy someday," Ron agreed. "I think that Gary and Sharon have cornered the market on beans and rice and we have our gardens plus an alternative means of transportation. Be sure you take a big bucket and a shovel. Those people at Wal-Mart might get a bit TESTY if you leave manure in their parking lot."

"Well, I don't like the way things are going one dang bit," Gary snorted. "I'm smoking less and still spending \$200 a month on cigarettes. Toilet paper doesn't weigh all that much, it doesn't make sense the way the price has gone up. I'm saving the J. C. Penny catalog, just in case. That reminds me Ron, I have a bunch of .45 Colt and .45ACP I need reloaded. I have the primers, powder and bullets; do you have time to reload the ammo?"

"No 5.56 or 7.62?"

"Everything is sighted in and I only practice to be able to control my breathing and not shake so badly. We can't draw attention to ourselves by shooting the machine guns or the M109's."

"Yeah and I can't reload the 25mm ammo either."

"I hate to change the subject," Clarence said, "But what are we going to do if some MZB's really do show up?"

"Tell them to get on their Harley's and head back to Texas," Ron suggested.

"I was serious."

"Clarence, we all have CB radios and we only live a short distance apart. Just get on channel 9 and yell, *The Russians are coming*. We'll get the message and we'll lock and load," Ron replied.

"As long as Gary doesn't mistake me for Geraldo."

"If you need help at your place, just scream *HELP*," Gary suggested.

"How do we notify the rest of the militia?"

"They'll hear the gunshots and come running."

"What if it's the Army instead some MZB's?"

"I think that they're supposed to be on our side, Clarence. But I guess we need a code for that, too. Just include the expression *Custer's Last Stand* in you transmission."

“What do I say if the UN shows up? Or, some Russians?”

“How about you say, the Russians are here, or, the UN is here?” Ron asked.

“Yeah, there you go Clarence, call everyone by what they are. You can say the Army is here, the Marines are here, the Russians are here or the Blue Hats are here,” Gary agreed.

Silly? Nope, the US was in such bad shape that the American President, a Democrat, invited the UN in to help maintain order amid the growing unrest. The UN responded instantly, they couldn't miss a change to disarm the United States. The US military didn't like the UN being in the country and refused to work with them maintaining order. Colonel Jessup or maybe it was the SM, got on the computer and ran the name Ott through the database, just in case. The only SS Ott they came up with in Arkansas was a former SS Derek S. Ott in Flippin.

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“Do you know what I want accomplished Sergeant Major?” Jessup asked. “You realize that I can't really tell you to do it, it is totally against Regulations.”

“I'll handle it Colonel,” SM Kowalski replied. “But first I have to verify that this is the guy we're not looking for.”

“Take that Corporal, he saw the SS and the SM,” Jessup suggested. “They are going to need some Block II FIM92A's, heavy machine guns, .50 caliber ammo, vests and plates.”

“Can we get our hands on any of the Ghillie suits, sir? I have a sneaking hunch these fellas are more like guerillas than conventional infantry. “

“I'll make a call SM, they usually go directly to the sniper schools. Check these guys out and if they are what we think they are, give them anything they want, within reason.”

“Sir.”

The modern Army isn't the same Army that fought WW I, II or Korea. It bears little resemblance to the Army that fought in Vietnam. Many of the weapons weren't the same. These people are all professional soldiers and volunteers. Nonetheless, Sergeant Majors are Sergeant Majors and the nature of that beast hasn't changed completely. A SM made things happen. Kowalski got the Corporal; they dressed in civilian clothes and took off for Flippin in the SM's personal vehicle. They were looking for a man named Ott who used to be a tank Commander in the Iowa National Guard.

“That's the guy SM,” the Corporal said, pointing to Derek at the Super Wal-Mart.

“Excuse me, I’m SM Kowalski from the Pine Bluff Arsenal, could we have a word, SS Ott?”

“Sure SM, but I’m a civilian now,” Derek replied.

“I know, SS,” Kowalski smiled. “What do you call your group?”

“The Frigin’ Flippin Militia,” Derek answered honestly.

“How large is your organization?”

“About a Platoon.”

“Ex-military?”

“Mostly. Look, SM, I get off in about 30 minutes, why don’t you and the Corporal get a drink at the refreshment center and I’ll come by and get you then?”

“Ok, but if you take off, we can find you.”

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“Ready to go SM?” Derek asked.

“Where?”

“There are some people you need to meet before I can say anything else.”

“Lead the way.”

“Dad, this is Sergeant Major Kowalski from the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Can you call Ron and Clarence and get them over here?”

“That’s the guy!” the Corporal said pointing to Gary. “He was the Sergeant Major.”

“Sorry Corporal but I was never higher than an Airman First Class in the Air Force in the 1960’s. That’s an E-4, the same as you are. Coffee, fellas?”

“Clarence and Ron, the Army is here. Don’t bother to lock and load; they’re dressed in civilian clothes. Clarence, Assembly.”

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“Are you guys sure you don’t belong in a convalescent home?” the SM asked.

“SM, I got out of the Air Force before Vietnam really got started. All you modern military types know how to do is read the Regulations,” Gary replied. “I never saw a Regulation I couldn’t bust.”

“Things are different now that the President has invited in the United Nations. Not everybody is happy with that decision.”

“I saw on CNN where the military is refusing to help the UN, Gar-Bear,” Ron added.

“That was pretty ballsy of you guys requisitioning the munitions.”

“Who in the Hell do you think paid for the stuff, SM? Those were our tax dollars at work.”

“No harm, no foul, that’s not why I’m here.”

“Why are you here? You seemed to be able to find us without looking too hard.”

“We figured you were some sort of local militia and decided to give you a pass because you were more interested in consumables than in weapons.”

“We have about all of the consumables that we need,” Clarence responded.

“We noticed that you didn’t take any heavy weapons or air defense weapons. You didn’t take any of the Interceptor body armor either.”

“We don’t have anyone trained to use air defense weapons, SM,” Derek replied. “Actually we do have a dozen of the M14 rifles and some 100-round Beta C drum magazines for them. “

“Really? We could train people to use the Stinger missiles, you know.”

“We don’t need them, SM. In Somalia, the rebels shot down Blackhawk helicopters with RPG-7’s. We have 4 of the XM109 upper assemblies and some ammo. We also have 4 of the M82A1 rifles and some Raufoss ammo.”

“How about I get you the lower receiver assemblies so you won’t have to swap out those upper receivers? I can also get you more of the 25mm ammo.”

“What’s the catch?” Ron asked.

“Arkansas doesn’t have a state Defense Force and some folks would like to change that. No catch.”

“Derek, it’s up to you.”

“We could probably use 4 Ma Deuces, some .50 caliber belts and so forth, Dad.”

“Derek, the Ma Deuce isn’t exactly the weapon of choice for a guerilla unit. They weigh too much,” Gary pointed out.

“Would you prefer the M312’s?”

“Now you’re talking, SM, they weigh a third as much, but do they work?” Gary asked.
“All of this new plastic equipment makes me nervous.”

“Very well, Mr. Ott.”

“What about the M307?” Gary asked.

“They work too, now that they got the bugs worked out.”

“Four of each and enough body armor for say 5 squads?” Gary asked.

“Come to the Arsenal in 2 days and we’ll have everything you want. If anybody asks you where you got it, tell them you stole it.”

“What if we end up needing a resupply?” Derek asked.

“You have the SINCGARS radios, call in on channel 1000 and request a resupply for the 1st of the 1st of the 1st of the Arkansas State Defense Force. We’ll monitor the channel. We’ll make up a canned requisition form and you can make your requests by line item and quantity. That will simplify everything and disguise the transaction in case we’re overheard.”

◦

“I’ll be damned,” Gary said shaking his head.

“Probably, Gar-Bear.”

“We’re going to need to reorganize the militia slightly and recruit another squad of people, you know.”

“Bubba and Bubba Jr. will take care of that once we tell them what equipment we’re going to add.”

◦

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (Reuters) – US and North Korean diplomats held their first face-to-face talks in five months last week amid increasing signs that Pyongyang is taking steps to advance its nuclear weapons program, the White House said on Thursday. With con-

cern that Pyongyang may conduct an underground test of a nuclear device, and with the six-party talks looking increasingly fragile, Washington is under pressure from its own partners to open some form of dialogue.

James Foster, State Department director of Korean affairs, expressed concern about North Korea's actions since openly declaring on Feb. 10 that it possessed nuclear weapons.

◦

ALEXANDRIA, Va. May 19, 2005 – Two doctors who examined a Virginia man accused of joining al Qaeda and plotting to assassinate President Bush have concluded that he was tortured while in Saudi custody, according to defense lawyers.

The torture resulted in Ahmed Omar Abu Ali giving a false confession to Saudi authorities, according to the lawyers, who are seeking to have the statement thrown out.

“The physical and psychological abuse that Abu Ali suffered over a two-year period critically impaired his capacity for self-determination and overcame his will,” wrote defense lawyer Ashraf Nubani. “It resulted in him making involuntary, false statements to alleviate his suffering and appease his interrogators.”

Federal prosecutors have consistently denied that Abu Ali was tortured. Nubani also accused the US government of complicity in the Saudis' alleged torture of Abu Ali. Abu Ali, 24, of Falls Church, is accused of joining al Qaeda while attending college in Saudi Arabia in 2001. The government contends that he discussed numerous possible attacks, including plans to assassinate Bush or members of Congress.

◦

(CBS/AP) Salvadoran officials closed schools and began evacuations on Thursday with the approach of what threatened to be the first recorded Pacific Cyclone to strike the country.

El Salvador and Guatemala declared emergencies as unusual Hurricane Adrian, the eastern Pacific's first named tropical storm of the season, gained force and headed directly for their coastline, carrying heavy rains that forecasters said could cause devastating flooding.

Salvadoran President Tony Saca broadcast an appeal for his citizens to obey evacuation requests.

1998, Hurricane Mitch, arriving from the Caribbean, killed at least 9,000 people in Central America. Most Pacific storms tend toward the northwest, marching roughly parallel to the coastline and then edging out to sea or veering inland. The Hurricane Center said

that since 1966, only one tropical depression has ever hit the coasts of Guatemala or El Salvador in May and none have done it so early, CBS News reports.

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Did someone just say something about the Saudis? Did that have anything to do with the Bush-Saudi connection, or was Gary just confused? The Three Amigos weren't totally confused, just in shock. They had expected the Army to show up, eventually, but never dreamed it would be to give them more things instead attempting to recover what they'd requisitioned. There is some rule about gift horses and their mouths, but Gary's memory was on-again-off-again, just like the relationship between India and Pakistan. The very last thing the US needed was to be vulnerable. Unfortunately, the President failed to realize that inviting the UN in to maintain law and order was the one thing he could have done to make the US almost totally vulnerable.

When the military informed the President that they had sworn allegiance to the Constitution and not to him, he fired the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. That started the snowball rolling down the slippery slope and before it was over, all of the military Chiefs of Staff were gone. Not all of the General Officers of the US military were so enamored with their oaths' of office. Most were, but there a rotten apple in every barrel. The President simply interviewed officers until he found one in each branch of service willing to support his policy. Sometimes officers skip a rank on their way to the top. It doesn't happen very often, but it happens. Rarely does an officer skip more than a single rank. The only fellow I can think of at the moment where that happened was to George Armstrong Custer (according to the movies) and I believe we all know what happened to Custer in the end. I don't know if Custer was shot or got an arrow. Dead is dead, no matter how you died. The movie where Custer received the promotion was *They Died with Their Boots On* (1941).

"Flynn's Custer was a larger-than-life cavalier, prone to getting in trouble with his superiors, but so charismatic that one enlisted man remarks, *We'd follow him to hell*. Barely allowed to leave West Point to serve in the Civil War (his academic record is the worst in West Point's history, "even worse than Ulysses S. Grant" one instructor laments), the new lieutenant is accidentally promoted to Brigadier General, and uses his rank to lead his command in a series of charges at Gettysburg, ultimately saving the day, and the Union, in the process." Custer received a Brevet promotion. He didn't lose his hair because he'd cut it short before the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

On June 28th, 1863, newly-appointed head of the Army of the Potomac, Major General George G. Meade appointed three captains in the Cavalry Corps as brigadier general in the US Volunteers: Wesley Merritt, Elon J. Farnworth, and George A. Custer. When he traded his captain's bars for brigadier's stars, Custer received command of the Second Brigade of the Third Cavalry Division – known simply as the Michigan Brigade or, to Custer, the Wolverine Brigade. At 23, Custer was commanding an inexperienced unit. Few had ever heard a shot fired, and their discipline and organization was raw. The

Wolverine Brigade would get their first lesson in combat as a result of General Robert E. Lee's second invasion of the North.

The Cold War – Chapter 18 – The Top of The Hour

The response of the United States Government against Japan ultimately was the use of the Atomic bomb. Never before had an Atomic bomb been used in military warfare. Never before had the world seen an atrocity of inhumanity such as this. Or have we? To justify the nuclear response, the American public needed only to go back in history to Custer's massacre at the Little Bighorn River. Fourteen years after Bighorn, the Indian problem was solved. In the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, at Wounded Knee, what remained of the faded hopes of the Native American cause were massacred. American soldiers at the battle against the Sioux were heard to shout, "Remember Custer!" The Last Stand of Custer at Bighorn was used as justification for the massacre of the Native American race. Custer and all his fallen comrades became national martyrs. The cause they died for became the cause the nation should fight for.

More than half a century later, the martyrs changed, but the cause for the fight remained. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, they sealed their own doom. The past tells us America's reaction to Pearl Harbor, and the past justifies it. "Remember Pearl Harbor!" "Remember Custer!" Remember the American cause and our fallen heroes!! On August 6th, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb the world had seen was dropped on Hiroshima, killing over 100,000 inhabitants. On August 9th, 1945, the second Atomic Bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, killing over 60,000 inhabitants. Was American action rightfully justified by the history of the past?

The 2 preceding paragraphs about Custer and the Japanese are from an undergraduate paper pertaining to the movie with Errol Flynn. I suspect the kid is a liberal. Maybe after he finished college he became a tree-hugger or something useful. My answer to the kid's question is, "You bet your butt it was!" The estimated death toll, had the US been forced to invade Japan was more than a million Japanese and one-half million Americans. I think 160,000 lives are a fair exchange. Who attacked whom?

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Just like the actual Cold War, *The Cold War* had taken on a life of its own. Events were building so slowly, one almost wondered if TSHTF before The Three Amigos died of old age or medical conditions. 100 times out of 99, TSHTF before people were ready. Clarence, Ron and Gary were, if nothing else, ready for whatever was looming in their future. They didn't have anything that one could really describe as a heavy weapon because even in their advanced age, they envisioned themselves as guerillas, not soldiers. Yes, Gary had a wheelchair. He also had a walker and a cane, but he didn't use any of them. It was difficult for him to walk and running was out of the question. Maybe he was an over-the-hill guerilla, but his heart was in the right place, just a little above his stomach. Hell, all 3 of the amigos were over-the-hill and possibly 2 valleys over. War is something for the young people, not old-farts.

Heavy weapon may have 2 meanings. The military refers to a 5.56mm as a light machine gun, a 7.62mm as a medium machine gun and a .50 caliber as a heavy machine

gun. At 42 pounds without the ammo or spare barrel, an M312 was a heavy machine gun, especially if you were pushing 70. It only weighed one-third the weight of the Ma Deuce. Then there was the question of the 25mm ammo which all turned out to be M1019HEAB cartridges at a pound per round.

◦

(CNN) – Dramatic new data from the December 26, 2004, Sumatran–Andaman earthquake that generated deadly tsunamis show the event created the longest fault rupture and the longest duration of faulting ever observed, according to three reports by an international group of seismologists published Thursday in the journal “Science.”

“Normally, a small earthquake might last less than a second; a moderate sized earthquake might last a few seconds. This earthquake lasted between 500 and 600 seconds (at least 10 minutes),” said Charles Ammon, associate professor of geosciences at Penn State University.

The quake released an amount of energy equal to a 100-gigaton bomb, according to Roger Bilham, professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado. And that power lasted longer than any quake ever recorded. Scientists estimated the average slippage (ground movement up and down) along the entire length of the fault was at least 5 meters (16.5 feet) – with some places being moved nearly 20 meters (66 feet).

Scientists have also upgraded the magnitude of the quake from 9.0 to between 9.1 and 9.3, a dramatically more powerful event. As a comparison: the ground shook 100 times harder during December’s earthquake than what was felt in the 1989 Loma Prieta quake in California. That 6.9 magnitude quake caused extensive damage from Santa Cruz to San Francisco.

“Globally, this earthquake was large enough to basically vibrate the whole planet as much as half an inch, or a centimeter. Everywhere we had instruments, we could see motions,” Ammon said. “There will be more earthquakes of this type, and with more humans exposed to the hazard there will be more devastating losses of life. What we hope to do is develop technologies that can minimize that loss,” Lay said.

◦

GOULBURN, Australia (AP) – The rolling hills around this historic city were once renowned as some of Australia’s best grazing land. After four years of drought they are as bleached and lifeless as old bones. Goulburn is perilously close to becoming Australia’s first major settlement to see its reservoirs run completely out of water as a Big Dry grips much of the nation. Desalination isn’t an option for landlocked Goulburn, one of Australia’s oldest settlements. Experts say the water supply in the city of 22,000 will run dry by year’s end without significant rain. Homes are now restricted to just 150 liters (40 gallons) per resident per day – about enough for a 10-minute shower.

Adding to the city's concerns are signs of a developing El Nino weather pattern, caused by fluctuations in ocean temperatures and believed to spur drought conditions in Australia. "This is our fourth year of drought now," Goulburn's water engineer Matt O'Rourke said, adding that if another El Nino forms, "then we may be faced with the prospect of another couple of years of drought." Charlie Prell, whose ranch is just outside Goulburn, fears the drought could last another decade.

◦

WASHINGTON (CNN) – The International Committee of the Red Cross gathered "credible" reports about US personnel at the Guantanamo Bay naval base disrespecting the Quran and raised the issue with the Pentagon several times, a group spokesman said Thursday. Although Red Cross employees did not personally witness any mishandling of Qurans, Schorno said, they documented and corroborated enough reports from detainees to share them with Pentagon and Guantanamo officials in confidential reports. Schorno said the Red Cross would not have raised the issue if it had been an isolated incident, but he would not offer specifics about the number of complaints.

◦

Mr. Schumer simply went too far: *Justice Brown's view on economics make Justice Scalia look very liberal. She doesn't want to roll back the clock to the 1950s or even the 1930s. She wants to go back to the 1800s*, Mr. Schumer said.

Mrs. Brown is a black woman born and raised in the deep south of Alabama. Given that history, it doesn't take much to see what rolling back the clock to the 1800s means for her. At best Mr. Schumer's statement is calling Mrs. Brown a person imprisoned with a slave mentality. But blacks and whites on the Hill yesterday felt he might as well have called her a *House Negro* or an *Uncle Tomasina*.

◦

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist last night scheduled the "nuclear option" vote for Tuesday, an expected announcement that came shortly after a bipartisan group of senators failed yet again to reach a last-minute compromise on judicial nominees. "We've made a tremendous amount of progress in the last few days," said Sen. Mark Pryor, Arkansas Democrat, who is among those still negotiating. "We don't have a deal at the moment but we're still very hopeful."

◦

The F-117A Nighthawk, America's first stealth aircraft was developed on the basis of mathematical formulas and tests. Most of our results are based on Pyotr Ufimstev's groundwork of stealth technology, more specifically, his article *Methods and Principles in reducing RCS*. Specifically: In April of '73, Denys Overholser, presented information

that would be the greatest breakthrough ever for stealth technology. Code-named *Have Blue* the information he gave would make an aircraft so hard to detect that it would be literally invulnerable against any radar system in the world. The irony of this is that the information that was found was found in a technical paper published by Moscow premier scientist Pyotr Ufimstev, who until 1990 did not know what he had given to America.

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“Why on earth did you move to the mountains, Gar-Bear?”

“The mountains serve a couple useful purposes, Ronald. There is nothing like a straight road in the area. It would slow down anyone unfamiliar with the area. It also gives us an advantage of being able to ambush outsiders.”

“Yeah, well, mountains all go up and down. The mountains may be a nice backyard for a 20-year-old kid, but we all about 70.”

“The bright side of that picture is that once we get where we’re going, it’s always downhill from there.”

“I can’t believe that anyone would want to attack or invade Flippin,” Clarence said.

“Oh, I agree with that, Clarence. It’s just that if you’re on US 412, you have to go through Flippin. However, US 412 is the main highway across northern Arkansas. And... once people get into town on their way to wherever they’re going, they’ll see the Wal-Mart. I not only wrote a little fiction in my day, I read everything that everyone else wrote. Wal-Mart’s appeared in lots of those stories. They may have called them Chinamart’s BUT the heroes usually ended up in a Wal-Mart store getting the things they needed to survive. We did. A Wal-Mart is sort of like one-stop shopping. It is obvious that their intended market is the blue-collar customer.”

“The store here sure is a lot different from the stores in the Palmdale area,” Ron observed.

“That’s because half their inventory isn’t illegal, partner.”

“What are we going to do if some of those UN people show up?” Clarence asked.

“If we can take them, I’d prefer to bury them. We’ll just have to be very careful to cover our tracks. I was sitting around thinking about the Army giving us that additional equipment. Setting aside the fact that their behavior was totally unbelievable, I believe that it is a matter of them being forced to do something they can’t stomach, so far as the UN is concerned. Why hasn’t the President been on TV and announced what’s going on? Why isn’t the media tearing apart everything that the Administration and Congress are doing? You can’t keep a reporter from telling everything he or she knows. I can only

conclude that the government has clamped down on papers, TV and radio. EO 10995 allows the government to seize and control the communication media.”

“I can’t believe that.”

Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. – Lord Acton “Who is generally considered the most powerful man in the world? I’ll answer my own question: it is the President of the United States.”

“That’s why we have 3 branches of government, Gary.”

“Think back a few years to George W. Bush’s second term in office. He had a majority in both the House and Senate. The Senate majority wasn’t overwhelming, only about 55 to 45. However, I remind you what the Republicans did to force their judicial nominations through the Senate.”

“What they did made sense, Gar-Bear,” Ron insisted. “The Democrats stalled some of those nominations for 4 years by threatening a filibuster. “

“Only because of the nasty seven Ron. It got pretty bad when a liberal like Chuckie Ba-by got in the face of that black female judge over being a black female judge. But instead of doing what legislators are paid to do and negotiate, the Republicans invoked the nuclear option.”

“And you didn’t approve?”

“If that were an isolated incident, it wouldn’t have bothered me at all. Somehow, I came to realize that it was part of a pervasive pattern. After 2 terms of a President that had forced 2 wars, packed the judiciary with ultra conservatives and so forth, the American public back lashed. He ended his term on a really high note with a thermonuclear war. This country is coming apart at the seams. Way back in the beginning when I started writing Patriot Fiction, a few stories in particular got my attention. One was called *Pax Americana*; another was *Battle of Jakes*; and, of course, there was *Lights Out*. I read all three of those several times. I’ve noticed that I’m not the only person who thinks that society is crumbling and that the 2nd Amendment will be the only thing that saves this country, assuming it can be saved.”

“It sounds like you’re proposing a second Revolution or Civil War,” Clarence said.

“Not at all, my friend. I simply want what the founding father’s promised us: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. We have 2 tools to do that, the ballot box and the 2nd Amendment. When the first one doesn’t work, you need the second. Listen:”

...Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new

Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

I, (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

“The 1st is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence. The 2nd is the federal Oath of Enlistment. I swore that oath on June 6, 1961. Maybe I got out of the Air Force in 1965, but how does a person un-swear an oath he’s given? How about this:”

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”

“I was in 5th or 6th grade when they added *under God* to the pledge. We said that pledge every day we were in school for 12 years. You’ve probably said it as many times as I have, maybe more. We can’t renege on a promise we made every school day for 12 years, fellas.”

“So, you’re saying...”

“That it is our duty to kick the UN out of the US by any and every means possible. It is our duty to help others to try and restore the government.”

“You can get off the soapbox now, Gar-Bear.”

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During the spring of 2012, the Blue Hats finally made it to Arkansas. Arkansas is mostly rural and in 2012, had a population of a little over 1 million people. As far as many were concerned this was the Second War of Northern Aggression. Most of the UN troops who made it to Arkansas were from what we call third-world countries. If they chose to pass right through, they weren’t bothered, at first. If they didn’t, the 1st of the 1st of the 1st gave them what for, assisted by the other residents of this small Arkansas community. The bodies were buried and the vehicles sunk in one of the Bull Shoals. Weapons that were salvaged were distributed among the townspeople.

During the American Revolutionary war, snipers using Kentucky rifles often harassed British troops. It was a risky business because they used black powder back in those days, which gave away the sniper’s position. This was the age of smokeless powder, suppressors and very accurate, very long-range rifles. A 25mm round or perhaps a LAW rocket into the grill of the lead vehicle would stop a column. A 25mm round or perhaps a LAW rocket into the last vehicle would tie the column up. The UN could hide, but they couldn’t run. When they tried, they were cut down; if they didn’t it was Abdul’s last

stand. Gradually, the population of Flippin became very adept at cleaning up the carnage and removing the signs of the battle that had occurred.

US and Soviet doctrine had long concluded that beyond 300-meters, most fire was suppressive fire. US doctrine was more realistic than Soviet doctrine, the Soviets said 400-meters and the US said 100-meters, but required proficiency to 300-meters. All I can tell you is that Geraldo would have been a dead man. A .50 caliber Barrett rifle is just getting warmed up at 600-meters and the M109 is pretty efficient to 1,000-meters and even beyond, as is the M25. The McMillian Tac-50 is even more accurate. The US Army was expending large amounts of ammunition in firefights they never had, controlling the local rebels. The munitions were getting expended in far different firefights. The first rounds always took out the antennas, preventing the UN forces from communicating their location and the next rounds tied up the columns. If you don't like my order of battle, tough!

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In 1776, the British complained that the Americans didn't fight fair. In 1991 and again in 2003, the Iraqis complained that the Americans didn't fight fair. In 2012, the UN complained that the Americans didn't fight fair. Did the Indians at the battle of the Little Big Horn fight fair? Sure they did, they won the battle. The Marquis of Queensbury can kiss my butt.

The idea that certain laws should apply even amid the violence and anarchy of war isn't new. The saying may have been that all's fair in war, but restrictions on battlefield conduct have always been recognized. The Hebrew Bible forbade soldiers from, among other things, destroying fruit-bearing trees in hostile lands, and chivalric codes existed in the Middle Ages. It was the Dutch philosopher Hugo Grotius (1583-1645), however, who came to be seen as the Solon of today's laws of war. His influential 1625 work *On the Laws of War and Peace* argued that there exist natural laws, independent of any individual state's legal system, that are apparent to human reason and should prevail even during hostilities.

Over the next two centuries, Enlightenment philosophers built upon Grotius' ideas. Montesquieu argued against the killing of prisoners of war. Rousseau insisted that prisoners receive humane treatment and be freed after hostilities ended (instead of being enslaved). These ideas made their way into various friendship pacts signed between nations and the war manuals individual countries issued to their soldiers. The unprecedented carnage of 19th-century warfare led Western nations to try to mitigate the most unnecessary forms of battlefield suffering. Innovations in weaponry and the advent of "total war," which exacted unconditional surrender from the defeated party, had made combat deadlier than ever before. In the Civil War (1861-1865), 600,000 American soldiers died – more than in all other American wars combined, before or since. In the Crimean War (1853-1856), in which Russia fought England, France, Turkey, and Sardinia, more than 100,000 people died of typhus, cholera, dysentery, and other diseases.

As the Crimean and Civil wars prompted the first Geneva Convention, World War I, which saw record death tolls due to trench warfare and the use of poison gas, spurred the world to bolster what were now seen as inadequate existing rules. The Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928, signed by most of the world's major powers, renounced war as a tool of policy; though symbolic, it formalized the notion that aggression against another state violated international law and was cited in the post-World War II trials of Axis leaders. Also adding to the burgeoning body of law were the 1925 Geneva Protocol, barring the use of poison gas and biological weapons; the 1929 Geneva Convention, improving the rules on the treatment of POWs and the wounded; and other treaties regulating the wartime use of submarines.

Buttressing the laws of war, alas, did not check the human instinct for savagery, as World War II and the Holocaust showed, and the war's aftermath produced a slew of efforts to stop such horrors from recurring. In 1948 the new United Nations ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which asserted that all human beings should enjoy a host of civil and social freedoms. Also that year an international genocide treaty outlawed any effort to exterminate a people. (The United States ratified it in 1988.) And the 1949 Geneva Conventions again expanded the laws of war, extending protections to noncombatants and augmenting the rights accorded to POWs and the wounded. Almost every nation on the globe has now signed the Geneva Conventions.

One method of enforcement was based on ancient principles: to require individual countries to do so. (*Aut punier aut dedere*, the Romans said; either punish or let others punish). The 1949 Geneva Conventions stipulated that signatories must search for suspected war criminals and either try them or turn them over to other nations willing to do so. Occasionally states have done so, as the United States did during the Vietnam War, prosecuting American servicemen accused of violating the laws of war. But on the whole, states have rarely been willing to charge their own soldiers with war crimes, and even more rarely let other countries or international courts do the work. The recent flap over the extradition and trial of Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet underscored the difficulty of getting nations to agree to what in principle should be a workable system.

The other method pioneered after World War II was the international tribunal. The Nuremberg and Tokyo trials of Axis leaders were conducted by multinational courts under procedures widely deemed to be fair and open. Dozens of German and Japanese officials, including Hermann Goering and Hideki Tojo, were convicted and given the death penalty or other stiff sentences. Although limited in scope, the trials offered hope that the laws of war might for the first time carry real weight.

There were critics, to be sure, who decried the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials as *victors' justice* – which of course they were. But the World War I experience had shown the futility of letting the defeated try their own, and in fact the international court represented a great advance over past forms of victors' justice, such as show trials or summary executions (which Winston Churchill at one point recommended for the Nazi leaders). As US Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, America's chief prosecutor at Nuremberg, not-

ed, "That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung by injury, stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that power has ever paid to reason." The question was not whether the victors would mete out justice, but what kind of justice they would mete out.

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Time for a musical interlude:

Newsweak-a-Ville [To the tune of Margaritaville]

Chewin' Falafel,
Bush is so awful,
Stealin' that sweet crude mid eastern oil.
Bummin' like nothin,
Wish we had somethin,
Some plan to cover ol' Shrubby in soil.

Chorus:
Wastin' away again in old Newsweak-a-ville,
Searching for my lost Pentagon source.
Some people claim that the Chimperor's to blame
But I know it's all Karl Rove's fault.

I don't know the reason
Limbaugh said it was treason.
Nothin' to show but this big ol' black eye;
But I say screw Newtie,
*F*** honor and duty,*
I'll report the story, even if our troops die.

Chorus:
Wastin' away again in old Newsweak-a-ville,
Searching for my lost FBI source.
Some people claim that Ol' McShrub is to blame
Now I think...
It's Karen Hughes' fault.

My blown reputation,
Mental masturbation,
I'd much rather be working up there at the Times;
But it's Howie Dean's Party,
And soon Doctor Smarty,
Will cover the Bushies with all their own slime.

[Aaaaaaaarrggggghhaaaaa...ah yay] [crescendo]

*Wastin' away again in old Newsweak-a-ville,
Searching for my lost stripey-pants source.
Some people claim that Chimperor is to blame
But I say it's all Karl Rove's fault.
Yes and some people claim Karen Hughes is to blame
I won't admit it, it's my own damn fault.*

o

UN troops kept disappearing in northern Arkansas. The UN upped the ante and sent in more troops to seize everyone's weapons. The UN couldn't find any weapons, even using the ATF's records of weapons purchasers. They weren't even sure where on US 412 the troops kept disappearing. The people in charge decided to go back and round up most of the Arkansans living along US 412 and put them in a camp. Nobody was home. The UN had a spy in their camp and didn't know it. He was a Pollock named Kowalski who said that the military should obey the President. Kowalski worked for a Colonel Jessup who totally agreed with his Sergeant Major. These gentlemen were from one of the few loyal military posts in the entire US, the Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal.

The Cold War – Chapter 19 – Janus

These gentlemen were from one of the few loyal military posts in the entire US, the Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal. They were loyal to the Constitution and their oaths of office, as were many of the military. They were loyal as far as the UN was concerned because they supported the President and officially refused to supply military units who were not. It was an extremely fine line they were walking. The Colonel and the SM were like Janus, having 2 faces. Janus is the Roman god of gates and doors (ianua), beginnings and endings, and hence represented with a double-faced head, each looking in opposite directions. He was worshipped at the beginning of the harvest time, planting, marriage, birth, and other types of beginnings, especially the beginnings of important events in a person's life. Janus also represents the transition between primitive life and civilization, between the countryside and the city, peace and war, and the growing-up of young people.

"How are you doing SM Kowalski?" Derek asked.

"We're getting by, SS Ott, but it is getting tougher by the day," Kowalski answered. "I could have radioed, but I didn't want anyone to overhear. The UN is planning on picking up all of the residents along US 412 from Ash Flat to Harrison."

"Crap. We'll get the warning out, but I don't know if people will believe us."

"Use the locals. Just make certain that everyone is gone who doesn't want to end up in some camp. How are you folks on supplies?"

"We are conserving our supplies as much as possible. I assumed that it would be difficult for you to conceal our using vast quantities in spray and pray tactics. We have adopted sniper tactics and those Ghillie suit kits you provided are coming in very handy."

"How are the old guys holding up?"

"They only go out on missions where they can climb the hills and mountains. They have the best weapons but share them with the militia. Do you want to take back the brass we've accumulated? We can't reload the .50 caliber or the 25mm. We could reload the 7.62x51mm, but not in the volume we use it in the M240's."

"Get someone to deliver it to the Arsenal in the 5-ton truck we provided. We're going to have to issue military ID for the members of the militia to use when they drive the truck."

It would be almost impossible to duplicate the current military smartcard ID card, DODCIO/OUUSD(P&R), with its multicolored multidimensional bar code, black and white picture on the back and color picture on the front. It had other security features not mentioned.

The FFM managed to contract everyone along US 412, and as I said, when the UN showed up, no one was home. It was a dang good thing for the UN that they didn't try to force their way into anybody's home, especially Gary and Sharon's. Gary was up on the slope a little ways away with his Tac-50 and that damned Raufoss ammo. In actuality, no one was far from his or her home. The UN couldn't pick up people they couldn't find. They picked up a few things they didn't plan on, mostly in their tires. The things they picked up were called Caltrops. The Caltrop was used extensively to deflate German tires during WW II. They were still a good idea for guerillas 70-years later. One version was made with hollow spikes and another with metal plates. Think of them as punji sticks for tires.

The Cold War didn't end in 2012. A United Nation's Peacekeeping mission began instead. The Peacekeeping Mission went against the grain of the people for whom peace was being kept and where there might have been a little unrest due to the failing economic system, there was now major unrest. SS Derek S. Ott had been Sgt. Derek S. Ott in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo. He had mixed feeling on the issue of attacking the Peacekeepers in light of that experience, but this wasn't some third-world country fighting over religious differences and genocide. Soldiers from other countries whom he met in Kosovo had a different attitude from the Americans involved in that Peacekeeping Mission. Above all else, the Americans had used restraint while some of the others hadn't. Although the Rules of Engagement for all of the Peacekeepers in Kosovo had been the same, interpretations of those Rules of Engagement varied.

o

Use of US Forces and other allied military forces in peace operations abroad continues to increase, to include once again the naval service of the USS Cole (as of April, 2002). The terrorist massacres of September 11, 2001 have also placed the US and other militaries on a war footing against an enemy capable of striking anywhere, at any time, against both combatant and innocent alike. If you wear a US uniform, you are especially at risk abroad – anywhere, and at any time. The mobilization of over eighty thousand National Guard and Reserve Forces for homeland defense makes the future application of military ROE within the borders of the United States more likely. Furthermore, the exigencies of the current terrorist threat may even call for the use of ROE by active military forces within the United States, in spite of restrictions placed by The Posse Comitatus Act on the domestic use of active duty military forces for law enforcement operations. Given these rapid and ongoing developments, what lessons should we learn from recent cases such as those sketched above for a more consistent formulation of ROE in this new and dangerous climate?

In general, ROE serve to proscribe certain uses of unreasonable force. Short of such proscriptions, other ROE are justified by their instrumental value for achieving the political or military end sought within constraints imposed by moral principle and law. Doctrinally, the US military defines ROE as *directives issued by a competent military commander which delineate the circumstances and limitations under which United States Forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered*

(DOD 1998: xx). ROE cover the gamut of military operations, from the high end of the use of force spectrum, the traditional *high-intensity combat operations*, to the low end, *Operations Other Than War*. But common to any military operation of any nation within that spectrum, certain relevant factors inevitably appear.

Within any state's military operation, in any military conflict however characterized, five moral principles must be operative. After careful study, I believe each is consistent with all three factors influencing the American PME. But only the first three of the five listed are ever consistently recognized in various versions of *Just War Theory*. While all five are consistent with the values demanded of the US PME, and which are embodied within the US Constitution and the international law of war, our current situation helps in understanding why the last two principles may be less acknowledged. These Moral Principles (MP) are:

MP1: It is wrong to intentionally harm innocent human beings.

MP2: One is sometimes obligated to protect innocent human beings from harm.

MP3: Human suffering ought to be minimized.

MP4: A combatant always maintains the right to self-defense.

MP5: Commanders are always obligated to protect subordinates under their care.

War? MP2 overrides MP1. No war? MP1 overrides MP2. Employ these decision-making criteria to justify war:

1. *Just Cause*
2. *Proportionality (Good achieved by political ends of war > suffering from war.)*
3. *Legitimate Authority*
4. *Publicly Declared*
5. *Reasonable Chance of Success*
6. *Right Intention*
7. *Last Resort*

◦

Hmmm, that paper was written in 2003. Oh, that's AFTER George W. Bush responded to the events of 9/11 by attacking Afghanistan and Iraq. Wrong countries, George, you should have attacked the Saudis and taken their oil, they have more and they were behind 9/11. You should have also told our troops not to abuse the prisoners and throw their religious books in the toilets; we're supposed to be the good guys here. You can't turn a blind eye and then get away with blaming a female General Officer, that won't wash. The soldiers who were prosecuted maybe deserved it BECAUSE any order to abuse a prisoner would have been ILLEGAL. Theoretically one cannot be punished for refusing to obey an UNLAWFUL order. That's why David James Elliott had a job for 10 years. Speaking of which, having his real-life wife (Nancy Chambers) playing Lt. Singer in the series was a real stroke of genius.

◦

The current American President had guaranteed that he wouldn't get reelected in November of 2012. Assuming the UN allowed the US to have elections. The UN wanted to monitor the November 2004 elections, you know. There is nothing in the Constitution, including the Amendments, covering a situation where an election cannot be held. Right?

Twentieth Amendment: Section 3. If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Gee, they thought of everything, except the US being taken over by peacekeeping forces that wouldn't allow elections OR the Congress to meet. Parlez-vous français? ¿Usted habla español? Вы говорите русского? Sprechen Sie Deutsches?

We. See. Nah-yet. Nine. Interesting, the only Constitutional provision for the continuation of the American federal government requires a functioning American federal government to begin with. Now, that's a scary thought.

o

Fortunately the UN Commander only sent Muslims to Arkansas. Muslims believe if they die as a martyr in a cause they go immediately to Paradise (Heaven). Some people were just trying to help those Muslims out. The real beauty of the Raufoss round was that you didn't need to take a head shot. Neither did you using the M1019. If you just want gore, go watch the SciFi channel. I'm just giving you a few hints about what some of the high-tech ammo rounds do to a person. They kill them deader than a rock. And depending upon which cartridge you use – it might get gory. The Arkansans did what the turtle told them to do in the 1950's; they ducked and covered.

It occurs to me to ask if you believe me when I say God has a sense of humor? I can prove it, you know, with a single name: Bobbitt, Lorena. Do you believe this? If you look her up in Wikipedia you can see a picture of what she bobbed. Yetch... Sorry if I ruined your breakfast. After they divorced, her ex- became a porn star playing Frankenstein. How appropriate. In "Frankenpenis," Bobbit played a character who was made with spare parts, much like "Frankenstein", whose penis inexplicably comes off during a rousing session of intercourse. Bobbit then moans, "oh no, not again." Siskel and Ebert gave the movie two thumbs up. Hee-hee-hee. They call me Mellow Yellow (Donovan)...

(So mellow, he's so yellow)

Electrical banana
Is gonna be a sudden craze
Electrical banana
Is bound to be the very next phase

They call it mellow yellow
(Quite rightly)
They call me mellow yellow
(Quite rightly)
They call me mellow yellow

◦

There are some sick people in this world and one of them lived in Palmdale, CA. He's an 'expert' on: bimbos, blonde.

◦

Bush to 2005 grads: Get involved. You mean they aren't already? I heard that a lot of strange things happen on campuses. About 20 percent of graduates and some faculty members wore buttons and stickers saying, "God is not a Democrat or a Republican" in a silent protest. Some also wore armbands. A handful did not stand up to applaud when Bush was introduced.

◦

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) – Sunni Arabs flexed their weakened political muscles, announcing Saturday the establishment of a nationwide coalition representing their religious community as their three-day, mosque-closing protest began. Since the Iraqi leader was overthrown, Shiite Arabs – 60 percent of the population – and Kurds have gained power and the Sunni Arabs have been on the margins of the new democracy. Officials think the insurgency is primarily made up of Sunnis.

How do you spell Civil War?

◦

Clinton aides Friday confirmed that the former first lady – widely expected to seek the Democratic nomination for President in 2008 – is inviting supporters (Iowans) to her Washington home for a fundraiser. (She's afraid to go to Iowa.)

Edward Cox, an attorney and son-in-law of former President Richard Nixon, is "seriously considering running" against Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York in her re-election bid next year, according to an adviser.

Her fundraiser is for the 2006 Senatorial campaign in New York. Right. Eddie should be sure to tell everyone he isn't a crook, either, only a lawyer, like Hillary. You all know how to tell if a politician is lying, right? Her, or his, lips... Bill isn't a lawyer anymore. Ask Monica.

◦

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – When his mother found out what porn star Ron Miller does for a living, she was heartbroken. She never wanted him to be a criminal defense lawyer.

TEHRAN (Reuters) – Iran said on Saturday it had not considered a proposal that Russia enrich uranium for it – an idea floated as a way out of a deadlock in talks with the EU over Tehran's nuclear program.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – With concern that Pyongyang may conduct an underground test of a nuclear device, and with the six-party talks looking increasingly fragile, Washington is under pressure from its own partners to open some form of dialogue.

◦

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – Hours before flying to Washington for talks with President Bush, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai demanded greater control Saturday over American military operations in his country and called for vigorous punishment of any US troops who mistreat prisoners. He also said he wants the United States to hand over all Afghan prisoners still in US Custody.

143 Americans died hunting Osama bin Laden and getting the Taliban out (as of 5/20/05). The US oversaw free elections where Karzai got elected. Now he wants us out? He wants to punish Americans? You can never find the CIA when you need them to do some wet work. I wonder what the Mossad is doing? "Hey, Ariel, got a minute?"

◦

"Fucking ragheads," Ron muttered. "I hate those SOB's"

"It is not good to hate, partner. You want we should hunt some down so you can kill them?"

"That might not be a bad idea, Gar-Bear, either that or give me a Xanax."

"We'll hunt down some Muslims, I don't want you getting hooked on Xanax, like I am. It is the real pits when you have to take a pill to go to sleep."

"Take something different."

“Been there, done that, didn’t work.”

“What did you take?”

“Benadryl. You get used to the stuff and it doesn’t make you sleepy anymore.”

“I thought you told me that Benadryl was the most common over-the-counter sleeping aid.”

“I did. It is. Most of the over-the-counter sleeping drugs are nothing but 25mgs of Benadryl. That’s why they stop working after a while.”

“But you take 50mgs of Benadryl every night, unless you lied to me again.”

“Guess that proves my point. I have one bottle of 25mg Benadryl that Sharon bought by mistake if you want it. She never looks at the labels.”

“Why did you keep it? All you had to do was double up until it was gone.”

“In case someone is visiting and needs a Benadryl capsule.”

“Give me a Xanax.”

“They’re one pound of flesh per tablet.”

“Bullcrap! We’re partners.”

“Take two, they’re small, but cut them in half. I take the 500µg tablets, not the 250µg, jobs. (µg = micrograms; 1,000µg = 1mg) 250µg usually puts most people on their butt.”

“I still want to kill a Muslim.”

“The FFM is a Defense Force, not an Offensive Force.”

“Well, I don’t want to offend the Muslims, I just want to kill them. If I wanted to offend them, I’d flush one of their Bibles down the toilet or dress them in panties.”

“Their Bible is called the Qur’an (Koran), not the Bible.”

“Why are the Muslims mad at us anyway?”

“They weren’t mad at the US, they were mad at the English for the Crusades.”

“They’re mad at us now.”

“True. Don’t ask me, ask Ayatollah Khomeini.”

“Are the Saudis Sunni or Shiite?”

“Neither. The Saudis are Wahhabi (Sunni) Muslims. Saudi Arabia has been inhabited for thousands of years by nomadic Semitic tribes. With the birth of Muhammad (AD 750), in Mecca, Saudi Arabia was briefly the center of Islam, but by the end of the 7th century, the area was disunited. Modern Saudi Arabia owes its existence to Ibn Saud, an adherent of the Wahhabi Muslim sect. Beginning in 1902, Saud conquered the Nejd, Al Hasa, and Hejaz regions, and in 1932 he proclaimed himself king of a united Saudi Arabia.”

o

Wahhabism began in central Arabia in the mid-eighteenth century by an obscure fanatic known as Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, who formed an alliance with a group of desert bandits, the Sauds. The histories of Wahhabism and the Saud tribe, the ruling family of Saudi Arabia, have been linked since the foundation of the movement. Ibn Abd al-Wahhab considered it his religious duty to conquer all other forms of Islam and was unwelcome among Arabian tribes, except the Sauds. They formed a pact with him in 1744 and began their conquest of Arabia 20 years later.

Many prominent religious scholars describe Wahhabism as an Islamic sect that is intolerant of other forms of Islam, unwilling to accommodate other religions and likely to create a narrow view of the world among its followers. This extremist sect of Islam considers itself to be a puritanical reform movement. Followers believe that Wahhabism is the purest form of Islam. In reality, Wahhabism is a distortion of Islam, known as Islamism. Wahhabists are intolerant of Shi'ite Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and Hinduism. They seek to challenge and destroy these faiths.

In most of the Islamic world, the Wahhabis control basic schooling. Between the ages of 7 and 15, students are taught fundamentals of strict Islam and religious obligations. Initial introduction to basic education is entirely absent, except as an addition to the teaching of strict, literal Islam. Between 15 and 25, young men are taught to fight and are prepared for jihad.

Osama bin Laden has capitalized on this widespread Wahhabism to unite Muslims across the Islamic world. The movement grows by indoctrinating youngsters in its hatred while ostensibly educating them. It is fueled by massive infusions of Saudi money. Wahhabism remains the dominant sect in Saudi Arabia, which has spread its influence to other Muslim countries through financial support for religious education. Wahhabi extremists cannot be stopped by reason. They cannot be starved out, and they certainly cannot be changed. Their message of universal fundamentalist Islamic rule over all Muslims now and over the entire world as soon as possible cannot be ignored.

The state Wahhabi philosophy of Saudi Arabia is distinct from more radical Wahhabi beliefs; the Saudis do not agree with war against Islamic rulers or with declaring fellow

Muslims to be infidel. The Saudi state was declared traitorous and infidel by Osama bin Laden for its connection to the US military setting foot on sacred (Arabian Peninsula) soil. The government of Saudi Arabia is probably not Islamist-Wahhabi. The Islamist government in Sudan and the now-defunct Islamist Taliban in Afghanistan were both influenced by the Wahhabi movement. A flight of bombers with neutron bombs resolved the issue.

Many Muslim terrorists that attack non-Muslims ascribe to or admire Islamist beliefs, especially in Sudan and the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The terrorists that hijacked four Western airplanes to attack the World Trade Center and Pentagon in 2001 were almost certainly Islamists, and Osama bin Laden is also considered an Islamist. Islamists also regard Christians and Jews as infidels rather than believers of the Old (or New) Testament and some believe that there is coming a final battle of Armageddon that will pit true Muslims against Jews and Christians. This is why the more radical Islamists consider it positive to kill Christians or Jews through acts of terror.

◦

That's the difference between a guy like Jerry and me. I write for the fun of it and he has done it for a living. There were only about a half dozen typos in the entire story. I probably have 3-4 in every chapter and I proof my work, twice, before I take it to the forum and once when I get there before it's posted. It was interesting reading work written by a pro and offering comments. It was awfully well researched and smooth as a baby's bottom.

◦

"I'm not going hunting for any Muslims. All we have to do is sit around and wait and sooner or later, they'll show up. Ron, take a Xanax. Clarence, maybe you'd better take one too."

"I ain't taking no pills, Gary."

"Suit yourself, don't say I didn't offer."

"I didn't say anything."

"Good."

"We just got word they're coming back, Dad."

"Are they looking for people or returning to wherever they came from?"

"They're driving straight through."

"Alert everyone but don't put them on alert. Maybe they'll never even slow down."

“Lock and load, Gar-Bear?”

“Couldn’t hurt.”

“I’ll go get my rifle and my bugle. I’ll be back in a few minutes.”

“Stop by my place and pick up my Tac-50, would you? Just tell Linda to give you the LBE and the rifle.”

“Do you need cigarettes, too?”

“I can always smoke yours, they’re cheaper.”

“Right, two packs of Marlboro’s.”

“They’re about 30 minutes out, Dad.”

“Dang, Clarence is cutting it close. I guess he can always tell them he’s with the Nation of Islam and would be glad to help them hunt down the white folks.”

“He’ll be back in plenty of time. It’s only a mile to his place and I live in between. But, if he isn’t, can I use a rifle?”

“I reckon. Sharon, could you put on another pot of coffee?”

“Make it yourself.”

“Excuse me, I’ll be right back.”

“Don’t take any wooden nickels.”

The Cold War – Chapter 20 – The Long Hot Summer

“Did I ever tell you about the Centennial celebration they had in Charles City in 1954? On second thought, never mind, I was going to tell you something about wooden nickels, but I forgot.”

“A wooden nickel isn’t worth the paper it’s printed on.”

“Hey, I guess you’re right. I’d better make that pot of coffee before I forget how.”

“I’m back,” Clarence said walking in the door.

“Did you bring my stuff?”

“It’s in the truck.”

“Let’s get a thermos of coffee, our stuff and go watch the road from up on the hill.”

“Sure. Linda said to tell you that you’re smoking too much.”

“She’s a fine one to talk, she smokes more than I do.”

“Coffee’s on.”

“Put it in a thermos and let’s go watch the UN drive by.”

“Right. Clarence, did you bring Ron’s rifle?”

“It’s in the truck.”

“Good, then I can take my Yac-50 instead of the M109. That will give me twice as much ammo.”

“Expecting trouble?”

“My mama says that you can never be too careful.”

o

“Have you found Jesus yet, Gump?”

“I didn’t know I was supposed to be looking for him, sir.”

“It was a bullet, wasn’t it?”

“A bullet?”

“That jumped up and bit you.”

“Oh, yes sir. Bit me right in the buttocks. They said it was a million dollar wound, but the army must keep that money ‘cause I still haven’t seen a nickel of that million dollars.”

“We was always taking long walks, and we was always looking for a guy named Charlie.”

o

Charlie was in Lancaster, CA, not Vietnam. Anyway, the UN finally got serious about the folks on US 412. They also began to suspect they had a leak; there were people but no guns when they went looking for the weapons and nothing when they went to pick the people up. Just because they spoke English as a second language, didn’t mean they were stupid. Many of the countries the UN sent in were also members of NATO, a fact not lost on many Americans. Great Britain, Canada and Australia didn’t send troops; they were protesting the UN action. However, the folks at FEMA seemed to be glad for the help of the United Nations. They provided a few jack-booted thugs familiar with the country to show the UN troops where everything was. Homeland Insecurity went to green, all the countries that might attack the US were already here, lending aid and keeping the peace.

It was almost humorous that the UN wanted to disarm America. In the United States, you had to fill out a form and go through a background check before you could purchase a firearm. In most of the world, all you needed was some money and the ability to find a street corner. In El Salvador, an M16 went for \$220 and a hand grenade (American made) for up to \$3. Russia had flooded the world with new and used AK-47’s when they went to the newer, less powerful, AK-74. Everybody sold off their previous military weapons when they came up with a new and improved design.

The US made the M1 Garand rifle and used it with great success during WW II. Its drawbacks were the weight and the 8-round enbloc clip that prevented reloading the weapon until it was empty (sorta). The .30-06 cartridges were heavy, too. The M-14 rifle in the 1950’s attempted to address some of the problems, replacing the 8-round enbloc clip with a 20-round detachable magazine and slightly lightening the weapon. The cartridge was the new NATO standard, the 7.62x51mm. The weapon and ammo were still too heavy, especially in the jungles of Vietnam. Enter General Curtis LeMay who adopted the M16 rifle for the Air Force to replace the useless M1 carbines they had. They gave the M1 carbines to the Vietnamese.

The Army had to reinvent the wheel and they changed the powder in the 5.56x45mm cartridges and didn’t chrome the barrels. The early weapons were POS. However, the M16 rifle was the service rifle with the longest length of service with the US military. The M16 was fine, especial the M16A2. The M4 carbine was another POS because its barrel was too short, reducing the power of the .223 round and causing the barrel to over-

heat. The H&K M8 rifle system based on their G36 rifle, looked to be the weapon of the future. In 2012 in the US military it was the standard issue weapon. The M25 rifle with its fancy 25mm cartridge was having trouble making the grade because it needed to go on a diet and cut some weight.

o

There is something about a man and his rifle. Gary preferred the M1A, the civilian version of the M14. However, there was nothing wrong with the FN FAL rifles either, they used the same cartridge and the magazines were cheaper. With the Beretta designed tri-comp, the M14E2 rifles worked as originally hoped and they made a darned fine replacement for the 1917 BAR. The M82A1 rifles were heavy, as was the ammo. But either as a .50BMG rifle or as a 25mm M109 rifle, they were very deadly. Civilians, if not the military, had come full circle and were using Main Battle Rifles and sniping, just like they did during the American Revolution. The .30 caliber rifles were much more likely to put down your target.

With unseasonable high temperatures, it was proving to be a very long, and very hot, summer. They couldn't really afford to run their air conditioners and Sharon spent most of her time in her quilting room in the basement shelter. By the 4th of July, they were ready for some nice, cold slices of watermelon. Rather than add to the heat to the homes, everyone got together and grilled. Macaroni salad required less heat to produce than potato salad. Independence Day, 2012, was ok but no one felt very independent. Through the spring and into early summer, the Colonel and the SM kept them up to speed and they avoided any direct confrontation with the ragheads. Except, of course, when they ambushed them and killed them all.

It wasn't Independence Day for the UN forces and whoever was in charge decided that the 4th of July would be an opportune moment to try and round up the people along US 412 in Arkansas, again. They ran into trouble right off the bat and at Ash Flat and Harrison and took heavy casualties. Maybe the folks in Ash Flat and Harrison didn't understand that if you didn't cut off the UN troops' communications, they would just call up reinforcements. Lots of reinforcements, not all of whom were ragheads. If you learned nothing else from watching all of those WW II reruns on the History Channel, you should have learned that a well-fed, well-supplied, non-demoralized German Army is tough to beat. The French, well, they're the French, what can I say?

"We just got flash traffic from Ash Flat and Harrison. The UN has attacked both communities and they appear to be winning."

"DEFCON 1?" Gary asked Ron and Clarence.

"DEFCON 1, set condition Zebra," Ron agreed.

"We don't have any watertight hatches to batten, Ron," Clarence complained.

“Just get a lot of ammo, partner.”

“Which rifle?”

“Bring ‘em all.”

“Derek, tell the members of the militia we have a red alert. Tell them to assemble everyone and everything at Wal-Mart.”

“Somebody had better alert the town, they’re having a parade, Dad.”

“Cripes, what next?”

Somewhere the warning system had broken down. They hadn’t had any warning from the SM. Neither the SM nor the Colonel could give a warning because they were under close confinement. Their fate would hinge on the outcome of today’s operation. If the Arkansans appeared to have warning, they’d be in the clear because it meant that someone else was the spy.

The German Wehrmacht (Defense Force), now called the Bundeswehr, consists of the Heer (Army), Marine (Navy) and Luftwaffe (Air Force). The French military consists of the Armée de Terre (Army), Marine Nationale (Navy), Armée de l’Air (Air Force) and the Gendarmerie Nationale (a military police force). The French Foreign Legion is part of the Army. Previously, the Legion was not stationed in mainland France except in war-time. Until 1962 the Legion headquarters were stationed in Sidi-Bel-Abbes, Algeria. Nowadays, some units of the Legion are in Corsica or overseas possessions, while the rest is in the south of mainland France. Current headquarters are in Albagne, France, just outside Marseille. The French serving in Kosovo were Legionnaires.

By the time a UN helicopter made it over Flippin, the militia and the townspeople were assembled at Wal-Mart. It managed to get off a message indicating that the people had been warned before an M307 brought it down. When the message made its way to the Commander of the UN forces, he released the Colonel and the SM. The UN decided to use the force from Harrison to swat those pesky insects in Flippin. That particular force consisted of Pakistanis and Legionnaires and was Company size in strength.

o

“Put the snipers on the roof at those notches cut to drain the water,” Jed suggested.

“What about the heavy weapons?”

“Spread them around the edges of the parking lot and we’ll surround them.”

“There’s more of them than there are of us.”

“We won’t tell them. Let them get into the parking lot and we’ll spring the trap. We have the advantage and they’ll be forced to circle the wagons. The French lost at Bien Dien Phu when they were surrounded.”

o

Nuclear tests in May 1998 confirmed that Pakistan, like India, has nuclear weapons. In April 1998 Pakistan test fired a long-range missile easily capable of reaching the capital of India. This means that Pakistan’s nuclear warheads can be delivered by airplanes and missiles, and reach most of India. Some of the sanctions that were handed to Pakistan have been relinquished and in early 2004 US President George W. Bush gave the government of Musharraf a \$3 billion aid package that will undoubtedly be spent on the military. In March 2005, US government confirmed that it intended to sell two dozen F16’s to Pakistan despite India’s resistance to the idea. In 2005, Pakistan had 620,000 active troops making it the 7th largest military in the world. The Pakistanis are equipped with a mix of US, Chinese, British and French equipment.

o

The UN Company Commander was ½ right when he thought he had the American insurgents trapped at the Wal-Mart store. What he didn’t know about that group of insurgents most certainly could kill him and his Company. He didn’t know they had M72 LAWs, M307s, M312s, M109s, M240Bs, latter day M14 SAWs, and a pretty fair number of sniper rifles. Neither did he know that the local militia had 300 M18A1 Claymore mines, not to mention some dynamite. He wouldn’t get to tell his grandchildren either. Ah, technology.

“Let them all get into the parking lot.”

“Some of them are staying on the road.”

“Wait, let them get closer.”

“If they were any closer, we could shake their hands.”

“Fire!”

They didn’t need 4,000 Indians at the Little Big Horn. The Flippin militia and the townspeople only had a force of between 90 and 100. On second thought, maybe they did, the Indians didn’t have the same weapons the militia had, even though they had the latest weapons available at the time, including 1873 Winchester rifles. When the smoke finally cleared, the townspeople had more weapons. They included the French-made FAMAS rifles in the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge. They also included some AAT F-1 light machineguns in the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge. The Pakistanis used the G-3 rifle. They also carried MP-5s and the MG-3 machineguns. Their arms were licensed from Germany and built locally.

“Anybody killed or wounded?”

“A couple of the townspeople got killed and several people are wounded.”

“Finish the UN people off, collect their equipment and we’ll sort through it later. For now, take all of it to the boat factory.”

“The Germans will be showing up in a few hours.”

“We can’t take Fritz head on; I think maybe we’d better ambush them east of Flippin. Somebody get a cherry picker and get my Dad off the roof. He doesn’t like to climb ladders.”

“Well, are you over wanting to kill some Muslims, Ronald?”

“I’d like to have some Stollen for dessert.”

“Suits me, but you know I haven’t killed a President in quite a while.”

“You haven’t shot Geraldo, either.”

“600-yards...”

◦

For folks unfamiliar with my stories, Gary usually manages to kill at least one President and Geraldo Rivera in every story. He dreams of a head shot on Geraldo at 600-yards; it couldn’t hurt Geraldo’s looks. Gary doesn’t like: lawyers, politicians and reporters. I don’t kill of my heroes very often in my stories. Neither does Tom Clancy. I like Jack Ryan and John Clark. Ryan makes it all the way to President and John Clark runs Rainbow Six. If you read *Flight of the Intruder*, I should point out that Jake Grafton makes it to Rear Admiral. If you read *Flight of the Old Dog*, Patrick McLanahan makes it to Major General. Even in a TSHTF survival situation, not everybody has to die.

◦

A mile east of Flippin, US 412 goes south around a mountain. It would mean letting the krauts get a little close, but further east were a lot of residential areas. They didn’t have time to travel very far and get set up anyway; the German Commander was on the radio trying to raise his French allies. Derek had picked up a little French and German in Kosovo and he conversed with the German Hauptmann (Captain). Most Germans speak English as a second language. So do a lot of other Europeans, except the French. The German Captain wasn’t stupid and he realized that he was speaking to an insurgent before the conversation ended, just like Derek wanted him to.

Damon had perfected one of his model rockets and it could carry a payload equal to one stick of dynamite, a cap and a crudely fashioned plunger that usually detonated the cap (a nail). About 50% of the time (25%, but he's my kid), he could actually put the rockets on target using the launcher to aim them. They should have gotten mortars from the Army, but they never planned on needing them.

o

According to Global Security, all maneuver units require indirect fire to win. Mortars provide unique indirect fires that are organizationally responsive to the ground maneuver commander. Military history has repeatedly demonstrated the effectiveness of mortars. Their rapid, high-angle, plunging fires are invaluable against dug-in enemy troops and targets in defilade, which are not vulnerable to attack by direct fires. Although they are part of the total fire support system, mortar sections and platoons are not simply small artillery batteries. They play a unique and vital role on the AirLand Battlefield. Depending upon the model of mortar, they have a maximum range of 7,200-meters. The US Army currently has five models of mortars:

- M224, 60mm, light mortar, each round weighs about 4 pounds.
- M29A1, 81mm, medium mortar, rounds weigh about 15 pounds each.
- M252, 81mm, medium mortar, rounds weigh about 15 pounds each.
- M30, 107mm, heavy mortar, rounds weigh about 28 pounds.
- M120, 120mm, heavy mortar, rounds weigh almost 33 pounds each.

o

That curving section of road around the hill/mountain 1-mile east of Flippin was the perfect spot for a mortar attack. When you don't have mortars, you do the 2nd best thing and use Claymore mines and use the tripwires or a standard M57 firing device. The M18A1 is adaptable for covering the ranges between maximum hand grenade throwing distance and the minimum safe distance of mortar and artillery supporting fires. Damon's rockets weren't accurate enough to be substitute mortars. You can also set up the M307s, M109s or use LAW rockets. The whole point is that you have to ambush the Germans, just to keep things on an even playing field. Having the German peacekeepers strung out on US412 allows you to use the tactic of stopping the front and rear vehicles.

"Here they come."

"Wait."

"Screw it, they're close enough, I'm firing."

"Dang... I missed."

"That's why I told you to wait."

“Why DID you tell me to wait?”

They weren’t in range.”

“Oh.”

“Well, shoot again.”

“Are they in range?”

“They know we’re here, it doesn’t make a lot of difference now. Dad, I’m the squad leader for a reason.”

“Sorry. But, I guess that being sorry doesn’t fix anything, does it?”

“That’s what you’ve always said.”

“My eyes aren’t what they used to be, kid.”

“Yeah, they’re a hell of a lot better, but they aren’t that good.”

“Did I ever tell you how I discovered I had cataracts?”

“No, but I’m sure you’re about to.”

“There was a blank spot on my computer screen and I had to turn my head to see my stories.”

“When are you going to stop writing those stupid stories?”

“When they quit making replacement keyboards.”

◦

The roar of the firing weapons was very loud. The missed shot no doubt gave the UN Commander an opportunity to call for reinforcements. It also occurred to him that they had probably located the insurgent stronghold. The person on the other end of the radio call for aid advised the Captain that UHT Tigers (helicopters, think Apache) were on the way.

◦

Meanwhile, a flight of 4 USAF F-16 fighters was airborne out of Little Rock. The fighters were hot, equipped with 2 AIM-9 Sidewinders, 2 AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles and 500-rounds of 20mm ammo for their Vulcan cannons. The USAF unit was loyal, too, to the

Constitution and their oaths of office although they pretended otherwise. Their ground controller advised them that the UN forces were dispatching a flight of UHT Tigers to Flippin in support of some German Peacekeepers who were under fire by the local insurgents. Would you rather be in the Fighting Falcon or the UHT helicopter?

It is always darkest before the dawn. Colonel Jessup knew a Colonel at Little Rock AFB. They occasionally played golf together. Both men were of the same mind and on this particular day, the AF Colonel was leading his flight of 4, getting in his flying hours.

“Leader to flight. We have some good ol’ boys on the ground in Flippin about to be visited by a flight of UHT choppers. Any opinions?”

“Leader. Apollo 2. It doesn’t seem right that we should stand by while a bunch of Krauts and Frenchmen kill Americans on US soil.”

“Apollo 3. Go for it Leader.”

Apollo 4 was silent, probably thinking.

“Apollo 4. Leader. How say you?”

“Leader. Apollo 4. Where is the danged weapons arming switch?”

“Leader to flight, weapons hot. Let’s go rescue those boys in Flippin.”

Sometimes, having dumb luck is better than having no luck at all. The FFM and the townspeople were taking out the German company, albeit slowly. They had no idea that the German Captain had made a radio call, or that a flight of UHT choppers was inbound or that a flight of 4 F-16C’s was inbound. The French/German helicopters were configured for a ground assault with missile pods not unlike the Zuni rockets. The UHT helicopters were also based in Little Rock. And remember, it was July 4th, Independence Day.

“Leader. Apollo 2. I have a flight of 6 UHT choppers at 10 o’clock, Angels 2.”

“Roger, Apollo 2. AMRAAMs. Take them according to our positions. Go.”

The air battle, or whatever you call it, took place in the vicinity of Marshall, AR. It was akin to shooting ducks in a shooting gallery. The FFM had no idea that the USAF had just saved their bacon. Not then, anyway. The ground crews had 6 replacement AM-RAAMs ready to reload the fighters when they landed. These were extras, unaccounted for in the inventory and had supposedly been fired in previous training exercises. The duplicity was getting worse by the minute.

o

“Keep firing, we almost have them.”

“I wonder why they haven’t called for air support, they had plenty of warning.”

“Maybe they did and it’s on the way.”

“Maybe we should quit, we’ve gotten most of them.”

Pop. “That’s another. Don’t stop now, they might have seen who we are.”

“Assuming they got off a radio message, the entire world knows that Flippin is the home of some insurgent Freedom fighters.”

“Good. Maybe some other people will get off their butts and fight the UN too.”

“Who is to say that they aren’t already? Danged news blackout.”

“It looks like we got the last German. Let’s get this mess cleaned up, the bodies buried and move the equipment to the boat factory.”

“I sure hope we didn’t damage many of their weapons, the Germans make real fine guns.”

“This is going to be a 4th of July that people will remember for a while.”

On the 4th of July 2012, a small group of local militiamen and some townspeople started something in a small town in north central Arkansas. They didn’t know that all over the US the UN had picked this particular holiday to round up several groups of insurgents. The UN didn’t have much success on that 4th of July. Word soon spread, via the Ham communications network that the fight with the Blue Hats was joined. I told you that the 2nd Amendment would be important to saving the country. It probably explained why the remainder of the world wanted to disarm America so badly.

The Cold War – Chapter 21 – The Irregular Army

The M224 60mm Lightweight Mortar is a smooth bore, muzzle loading, high-angle-of-fire weapon. The cannon assembly is composed of the barrel, combination base cap, and firing mechanism. The mount consists of a bipod and a base plate, which is provided with screw type elevating and traversing mechanisms to elevate/traverse the mortar. The M64 sight unit is attached to the bipod mount via a standard dovetail. An additional short-range sight is attached to the base of the cannon tube for firing the mortar on the move and during assaults. It has a spring-type shock absorber to absorb the shock of recoil in firing. The M224 replaced the older (WWII era) M2 and M19, 60mm Mortars. These weapons only possessed 2,200 yards of effective range. The M224 was designed to fire all types of the older ammunition, but its primary rounds are of the newer, longer-range type.

The M224 Mortar System consists of the following major components:

- M225 Cannon Assembly (14.4 lbs)
- M170 Bipod Assembly (15.2 lbs)
- M7 Baseplate (14.4 lbs)
- M8 Auxiliary Baseplate (3.6 lbs)

◦

“You owe me 6 AMRAAM missiles, Jessup. My flight bailed out your boys in Flippin last week.”

“I really appreciate that, Roger. They had no idea that the UN flight of choppers was inbound for certain. Now they want some M224 mortars. The SM and I had a close call. The UN must have figured we were spying on them and they held us for several hours on the 4th of July.”

“What happened?”

“They guys in Flippin were assembled when they sent in a Gazelle to check on them and the UN area commander assumed that we weren’t the source of their intelligence.”

“How did the guys in Flippin pull that off?”

“We have SINCGARS radios spread out among the civilian population and someone must have put out a call for help, probably the people in Ash Flat. The UN really did a number on them.”

“If they have SINCGARS radios we can communicate with them. Do you have the frequencies they use?”

“It might be easier to give the various militia units your frequencies.”

“I’ll have my Chief Master Sergeant get in touch with your SM to exchange frequencies.”

“That’s a gimme.”

“Thanks.”

“Don’t forget to count the stroke.”

o

“SM we’d rather have the M8 Auxiliary Baseplates than the M7 Baseplates, it will be less to carry.”

“What do you want for ammo, SS?”

“What do you recommend?”

“The M720 and M888 High Explosive Cartridges are designed for use with the M224 60mm Mortar System and are used against personnel, bunker and light matériel targets. The high fragmentation steel projectile is loaded with Composition B explosive. The M720 and M888 are identical with the exception of the fuze. The M720 is equipped with the M734 Multi-Option Fuze, which can be set to function in the Proximity, Near Surface Burst, Impact, or Delay mode. The M888 is equipped with the M935 Point Detonating Fuze which functions in the Impact mode.”

“We’ll take some of both and some practice rounds.”

“I’m going to give you an assortment SS. You’ll get M720 and M888 plus M721 Illumination, M722 Smoke and M766 practice rounds.”

“I’m a civilian.”

“Bzzz. Wrong. You were a Member of the Arkansdas National Guard when TSHTF. Like it or not, you’re on active duty. However, we haven’t figured out how to issue you your pay without someone else figuring out you’re still alive. Oh, by the way, it’s Sergeant First Class now. You’re out of uniform.”

“I’m wearing civilian clothes, of course I’m out of uniform. My wife is really going to be po’d.”

“Why? I’d think she’d be happy that you made First Class.”

“We talked it over a long time ago and she absolutely doesn’t want me to be fulltime military.”

“We managed to salvage a few Platoons of tanks from Shreveport.”

“Which model?”

“M1A1s, but we’re thinking about upgrading them to M1A2SEPs.”

“Don’t SM, the M1A1s were the best model of the entire series.”

“As a Sergeant First Class, you’d be a Platoon Sergeant. We can let you have a tank Platoon if we can come up with a Platoon Commander. What the hell, I’ll talk to the Colonel and we’ll make you the Platoon Commander.”

“What about ammo for the tanks?”

“We have sabot and HEAT. The .50 cal and 7.62mm, you already have. Where will you hide a tank Platoon?”

“At the boat factory with the equipment we salvaged from the 2 UN Companies.”

“The UN is going to be coming after you folks in Flippin, you know.”

“What about a few Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles?”

“How many do you need?”

“Eight should be enough.”

“I’ll see what I can do.”

o

“Colonel, Sergeant First Class Ott says he’ll take a Platoon of Abrams. They’re ready to go, Sir, and I recommend we make SFC Ott the Platoon Commander.”

“Make it so. How many Bradley’s did he want?”

“Eight.”

“How many M224’s are we giving him?”

“Four, plus a fair amount of ammo.”

“They’ll have to get up to speed pretty damn quick. The UN is already putting together plans to attack Flippin again. Oh, you’ll be hearing from an Air Force Chief Master Sergeant with the frequencies the ANG’s are using at the Little Rock AFB. See that you get

them to all of the units than have SINCGARS radios and they'll be able to call in air support in a pinch."

"Ott said that his wife was going to be po'd at his getting the promotion."

"Why?"

"He said that she didn't want him to be fulltime active military."

"Really? She was in the Army too, wasn't she?"

"Yes Sir. She drove a M1070/M1000 HET."

"Put her back on active duty as a SS and get her 4 of the HETS."

"Sir."

o

Technically Mary had served her full reserve commitment and the Army couldn't put her back on active duty. These were extraordinary times and extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. The SM finally figured out how to give Derek his back pay and he went back to the day they'd showed up at the Arsenal and picked up the munitions. He also backdated Mary's active duty to the same date and issued her 8 of the M8 rifles in the standard carbine model and 8 of the M9 pistols. The FFM had now become an armored unit and mechanized infantry unit. All the members of the FFM that had prior military service were placed on active duty at their previously held military ranks except for Jeb and Abel who were promoted to Sergeant First Class. The 1st of the 1st of the 1st was now an active Army unit instead of being an active unit of the fledgling Arkansas State Defense Force.

Was that a Rebel Yell the SM had just heard? It couldn't be, it was a long way from Flippin to Pine Bluff. Certain members of the FFM couldn't be put on active duty even though they had prior military service. Gary was pushing 70 years of age, for example. And, considering the ages of The Three Amigos, none of them could even be made civilian employees of the DOD. Or, could they? Nah, apparently the 3 old men were off on a secret mission to the east coast.

o

"How are we going to pull off assassinating the President of the United States, Gar-Bear?"

"Give me time, partner, I'll think of something. Does anyone have any idea where Geraldo is these days? It might be good practice."

“You’re really going to do it, aren’t you?” Clarence observed.

“What are they going to do, give us life in prison? It will be the shortest sentence in history. But, if I can figure it out right, maybe we won’t get caught.”

The President of the United States has been the charge of the United States Secret Service (USSS) for nearly 100 years. The USSS takes its responsibility very seriously. It doesn’t matter what party the President belongs to or what his or her politics are. The USSS is protecting the office and the officeholder, not a particular individual. They are very, very good at what they do. A cordon of agents surrounds the President at all times. Whenever he or she makes a public appearance, the cordon extends well out to rifle range. It has become especially difficult in recent years, given the range of the modern .50 caliber rifles. A circle with a one-mile radius has an area of $\sim 3.14 \text{ miles}^2$ ($a = \pi r^2$). The circumference of a circle = d where d equals the diameter of a circle. The circumference the USSS has to guard is therefore about 6.28 miles.

= $3.14159265358979323846 \dots$ times 2 = 6.28318530717958647692 times 5,280’ = 33,175’. Assuming you could put an agent every 100’, it would take 332 people to encircle the President. That’s why they use local police. The May 11, 2005 incursion of a Cessna aircraft into the restricted airspace over Washington, DC caused brief panic, but nothing came of the accidental incursion. If you want to understand my attitude about reporters, read the White House briefing that occurred shortly thereafter. I believe that if you added up the IQs of all the reporters in that room, you’d get a single digit number, and that is being generous. It is worse than ‘Who’s on First’? Those reporters probably all had college educations. Lawyers go to college for 7 years and doctors, who only PRACTICE medicine, average about 11. Our colleges are in real trouble. Come to think of it, lawyers only practice too, on an unsuspecting public.

Geraldo doesn’t have anyone protecting him and he’s in New York City. You’d have to do that one close up and personal. Everyone knows how those New Yorkers are about guns. They have something in New York they call the Sullivan Law. They also have a very high murder rate.

Have you ever seen a M1070/M1000 HETS? Now that’s a real semi tractor-trailer rig. The tractor has a curb weight of 45,000 pounds, 8 tires and a 6-man cab with an NBC filter system. The trailer has a curb weight of 50,000 pounds, 5 axle lines (4 steerable) and 40 tires. They use Michelin tires. The M1070 provides line-haul, local-haul and maintenance evacuation on and off road during tactical operations worldwide. Unlike previous HETS, the M1070 is designed to carry both the tank and its crew. The trailer has a payload of 140,000 pounds and can: Self Load/Unload Disabled Tanks. That’s how Derek met Mary. Speaking of female soldiers, did you see Jessica Lynch on TV last night? One of her companions who was killed was a female Native American and it was some show about them building a home for the dead friends 2 children and parents. While they were at it, they put in a facility for the Navaho Code Talkers of WW II. Nice.

With the economy in the toilet, Mary was having trouble finding work. Her usual occupation was school bus driver. The Army paid a Staff Sergeant a lot more than the Flippin school system paid its bus drivers. She was happy to be back in the Army, go figure. How much do an E-7 and an E-5 make together? One hell of a lot more than a department manager at Wal-Mart and a school bus driver make. The Army spends considerable time training people to operate Abrams tanks and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles. They had 3 weeks, top. A M1A2SEP Abrams weighs 69.54 tons. Unless I'm mistaken, 140,000 pounds is 70 tons. I guess they better empty the ashtrays before they load the Abrams tanks.

◦

Gar-Bear was back on Norco because his stomach was bothering him. Between you and me, I think it was his pancreas. He had a constant pain just below his ribcage.

"Are you Geraldo Rivera?"

"Yes I am, are you a fan?" Geraldo asked.

"In a peculiar kind of way, yes." Pop-pop-pop.

Geraldo won't be on TV any longer, due to a pressing commitment shoveling coal and drawing maps for the Iranians. That took care of Geraldo, but it was going to be very difficult to get anywhere near the President because he refused to come out of the Situation Room in the basement of the White House. In the first place, he couldn't get the yellow stain out of the back of his shirt; and, in the second place, he didn't get his party's nomination for a second term and they picked Howard Dean instead. Except it didn't look like there would be an election anyway. Once a President is out of office he still gets the protection of the USSS, just not as many people. Which way is it to Massachusetts? He's always worth the price of a bullet, maybe 2. John Edwards was Dean's running mate. Hey Howard, Edwards is a liability, get Joe Lieberman instead, he'll bring out the Moral Majority.

◦

"Did you have a nice vacation, Dad?"

"Very nice, thank you Derek. What's new around here?"

"I'm a Sergeant First Class and Mary is a Staff Sergeant. The Colonel came up with 4 Abrams M1A1s, 8 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 4 M1070/M1000 HETS."

"Are we going mechanized?"

"I am... you aren't. The 3 of you are a little long in the tooth for this man's Army."

“Really? I’m a pretty good shot with that Kimber now.”

“It doesn’t matter. All of the former military personnel in the militia have been reactivated.”

“What about the civilians?”

“Maybe you can use them to form the Flippin Defense Force.”

“FDF? It doesn’t have the same ring as the Frigin’ Flippin Militia. You do what you want, you will anyway. However, I wouldn’t count on taking the M14 SAWs or the M109 rifles.”

“That’s ok; they won’t fit in the Abrams anyway.”

“Hey, I wouldn’t mind having one of those.”

“I left two of them with the 12” barrels.”

“How hard would it be to fit them with a M4-FA?”

“For some reason the M4-FAs aren’t available. I fitted the 2 I had left with the FA flash-hiders, anyway.”

“What about Ron and Clarence? They like boy toys as much as anyone.”

“I anticipated that, they already have theirs. Did they get New York fully rebuilt?”

“Uh-huh. Now all they need to do is take out the trash. Geraldo won’t be on TV any longer, he has some stomach pains.”

“Really? What a shame. I guess you did have a good time, didn’t you?”

“1 stinking yard. All of the practice was for nothing.”

o

“He bought the two of you off with a couple of M8 carbines, huh?”

“Nice,” Ron remarked.

“Plastic magazines.”

“The entire world is made of plastic, Gar-Bear. That’s what you’re always bitching about.”

“They’re full-auto,” Clarence added.

“But he’s taking two-thirds of the militia and forming an armored, mechanized infantry unit.”

“His math stinks. An Abrams has a crew of 4, that’s 16 people. The Bradley’s have a crew of 3 making for 24 more. The entire small force he’s building will be tired up crewing the 12 vehicles.”

“Maybe he’s planning on recruiting additional people. They can haul up to 48 infantry dismounts in the Bradley’s.”

“You’re forgetting something. They’re also getting 4 of the M1070/M1000 HETS and they have a crew of 2.”

“I think they have a problem. The M307, M312 and M224 mortars are crew served weapons. They’ll need 24 people just to crew those weapons. Unless I can’t count anymore, they need a total of 72 people for crews and another 36 infantry.”

“Those things are Derek, Jed and Abel’s problems. They’ll figure it out. Our problem is putting a militia back together.”

“I’m not done bitching about the Army. I half figure they’ll get some Bradley IFV. The Stryker IAVs are wheeled and have a crew of 2 and 9 infantry dismounts. The M113A3 has a crew of 2 and 11 infantry dismounts. I read where the Army prefers the Stryker to the M113.”

“Are they getting IFVs, CFVs or IAVs?”

“IFVs. The CFVs are scouts with only 2 dismounts and the IAVs have wheels.”

“So, if they get let’s say 8 of the IFV Bradley’s, they’ll have ½ a Company sized force, right?”

“I’m getting confused.”

“You’re always confused.”

“Let’s see:

4 Abrams, crew of 4 = 16

4 HETS, crew of 2 = 8

8 Bradley IFV, crew of 3, 6 dismounts = 72, including the crew served weapons

2 M978 2,500-gallon tankers, crew of 2 = 4

That makes 100 people doesn’t it?”

“That sounds about right.”

“I’m still confused.”

“What’s new?”

“It isn’t that. If they’re in the military does that mean that the military is taking an active role in kicking out the UN?”

“Gar-Bear, what I believe is happening is that the military is helping without been seen as helping. While they give every appearance of following orders from the White House, in actuality, they are supporting the resistance to the UN by supplying the rebels.”

“Oh. That means that if we were to ask the Colonel directly for assistance for our militia, he’d probably provide it. Then why are they beginning to equip units like the FFM with front line military gear and turning them into regular soldiers?”

“Not regular soldiers, irregular soldiers. I think that this is the next move to confront the UN more directly without actually involving the military directly.”

“They are beginning to look like regular soldiers to me,” Clarence shook his head.

o

Using irregular soldiers gave the military plausible deniability. Little Rock Arsenal actually manufactured some of the materials they were giving to the civilians. That is why they seemed to have an unlimited supply of some things. The Colonel and the SM weren’t alone in their activities. Obviously the Arkansas ANGs were involved. In truth, it was happening all over the country. Some officers were mavericks and they didn’t give a flip if they were seen as opposing the UN. They wanted the foreigners out of the country. Period.

Waiting for the familiar whine when he ordered his tank engine started, Derek was in for quite a surprise. They’d been pulled and replaced by brand new engines that had been developed for the Crusader program. That prompted Derek to check the tank over more carefully. It was a M1A2SEP. The Abrams tank was originally developed for fighting Russian tanks in Europe. Most of the improvements to the tank had been in keeping with the original design. The tanks had better armor, a 120mm gun instead of the original 105mm gun and the targeting equipment had been drastically upgraded over the years. The price of all of the improvements had been to increase the weight of the tank from 60 tons to 70 tons, all without replacing the AGT-1500 turbine engine. The Army’s Abrams modernization strategy includes a new tank engine program, the LV-50-2, the AIM program, the TUSK upgrade and a parts obsolescence program to reduce the operations and support costs and logistics footprint associated with the Abrams tank. These initiatives are funded by the Army to sustain its tank fleet over the next 25 years. Apparently, these 4 tanks had been through Ohio and were restored to new condition and up-

graded to the M1A3 (because of the engine). He'd have to be careful not to scratch his armor. One other individual was rated as a tank commander and he would become the assistant tank platoon commander.

They decided that their first mission would be to go to Little Rock and rout the UN headquarters there. Since they were the insurgents, they didn't need to worry about IEDs. They did, however, have to worry about antitank missiles on the UN attack helicopters. They added the reactive armor to give them a little extra protection. Some of the UN countries used Hellfire and TOW missiles too. They needed a strategy that would allow them to attack UN forces without coming under attack from any of the antitank missiles. Maybe if they had elected to go with the Stryker's, they could have pulled it off. The Abrams and the Bradley were both tracks and made way too much noise.

In their role as Peacekeepers, the Germans didn't have their Leopard II tanks and French didn't have the Leclerc. When the Abrams was initially designed, there were 4 models. The British took one, the Challenger, the Germans a second, the French a third and the US the fourth. All of the MBTs of the four nations were comparable and used the 120mm gun and the British designed armor. The only major difference was in the 120mm ammo they used and the fact that the British gun was rifled.

Perhaps the mission was overly ambitious. If they could surprise the UN forces, they would have a better chance. But unless they could avoid the remaining Companies of UN forces out of Little Rock, they would have a problem. The answer was a diversion. The UN was there to keep the peace so they needed to stir up trouble somewhere else and draw the UN forces out to restore order.

"How would The Three Amigos like another mission?" Derek asked.

"Lock and load," Ron told his friends.

"What's the mission?" Clarence asked.

The Cold War – Chapter 22 – Remember Kent State?

“The FFM is planning on taking out the UN command structure in Little Rock. They have Hellfire and TOW missiles but they’re deployed with the mobile Companies. What we need is someone to stir up a little hate and discontent somewhere that will cause the UN to dispatch their troops to resolve the matter. The 3 of you may be a little long in the tooth, but you’ve had lots of practice raising hell. How about it? Would you like to go somewhere and start a ruckus?”

“So I’m too old to be in the Army but you want I should go do your dirty business? Huh! Maybe I’ll think about it.”

“What’s it going to take?” Derek asked.

“For starters, we want our name back. You can call your irregular army something else.”

“What else?”

“You took our M307s, M312s and M224s. We want at least ½ of them back.”

“I’ll get you some more; three each, right?”

“Now you’re talking,” Clarence smiled. “What are you going to call your new irregular army?”

“Damon’s Devils.”

“Damon isn’t a part of the group is he? They gave him a section 8.”

“No, but you don’t think I’d be stupid enough to use my own name again, do you?”

“What happens if we get caught raising hell?” Clarence asked.

“Tell them your name, rank, serial number and date of birth.”

“And, if they decide to shoot us?”

“Refuse the blindfold and give them the bird.”

Ron’s serial number was 1 because he was the oldest. Clarence was 2 and Gary was 3. Jed made a special trip to Pine Bluff to get the weapons after he spent a little time in Little Rock getting the lay of the land. They had been able to recruit former soldiers from several communities and even found people who were tankers or knew the Bradley. Word came via radio that the UN was planning on hitting Flippin and other communities in the area the following week. The Three Amigos loaded all of their stuff in the back of their pickups and gathered up what remained of the FFM. They were going to Fayette-

ville and raise a little hell. Fayetteville had a small UN contingent of its own, possibly a couple of Platoons. You know where Fayetteville is, right? It's the same danged place it's always been, on I-540 north of Ft. Smith a ways.

Did you know that there's a town in Arkansas named Murfreesboro? Barrett is in Tennessee. The Three Amigos had more guns than they could possibly shoot. When they ran out of ammo for one, they could switch to another. By now, the entire FFM was well equipped with German weapons or the German clones from Pakistan. They didn't like the French bullpup rifle and neither did the townspeople. They had a greasy feel to them, almost like the soldiers had been eating croissants avec du beurre.

Two-dozen people weren't going to be a very imposing force in Fayetteville. The SM had sent along a few extra presents for the FFM with Jed, including some Mk3A2 concussion grenades. He didn't think to include a wheel kit for their weapons. They were going to the college and find some students who didn't think much of the UN being in the US. The students would be their force multiplier. The 4th pickup was filled with the cast off French FN-MAS bullpup rifles and ammo.

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Students make the ideal candidates when it comes to raising hell. They're young and filled with enthusiasm and idealism. Plus, most of them aren't too bright in the ways of the world and they take a lot of risks. Students tend to listen to older people, especially if they're well educated. Maybe The Three Amigos could form a new chapter of the SDS. They ran out of FN-MAS rifles and issued the remaining students Mk3A2 concussion grenades. They told the students to start a protest of the UN presence and if the UN got too pushy, just to shoot them.

"I love it when a plan comes together!"

"Hannibal Smith, *The A-Team*."

"Right again, partner."

Look to this day, for yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is but a vision. But today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

"Hannibal?"

"Faceman."

"How do the two of you do that?" Clarence asked.

All of the silly banter meant that Ron and Gary were nervous. In terms of facing off against the UN, they had more than enough students and the students had about 100,

give or take, of the bullpup rifles. Before they started anything, they explained to the students that the UN didn't always follow the ROE. What they really wanted was for the UN to be forced to call in reinforcements so when the students started using the rifles, they shouldn't kill all of the UN forces.

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"Roger, keep an ear on the UN frequencies. Rumor has it that there's going to be an uprising in Fayetteville and the UN will be forced to dispatch some choppers."

"Right, I have a flight of 8 ready on the flight line."

"That action is just a diversion to pull the UN forces out of Little Rock. So whatever you decide to do, Roger, don't send all your planes after the choppers. It should get interesting this afternoon."

"How many irregular units have you equipped so far, Bob?"

"More than a few. Some of those units are better equipped than we ever were. They have the upgraded Abrams from the National Guard in Shreveport with the new LV-50-2 engines. We're calling them the A3 model. Anyway, I'd advise against scrambling all of your forces for training flights when the UN takes off for Fayetteville. I'm surprised the UN doesn't raise hell about your planes carrying live munitions."

"They've been re-painted blue and re-lettered and carry the color and nomenclature of the practice stuff."

"It will be dicey if the UN ever starts looking in all of our munitions stores here in Pine Bluff and finds out most of the boxes are filled with rocks," Jessup chuckled.

"Say could I get some 20mm ammo from you for our Vulcan cannons?"

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"How do you want to handle this?"

"Send the students and we'll snipe from 600-yards out. I want to take advantage of all the practice I put in."

"The UN will probably fire on those students, Gary," Clarence suggested.

"I don't know any of them, so it won't bother me too much. They are Americans and should be willing to die for their country. However, can you imagine what will happen when word gets out that the UN killed a bunch of protesting students in Fayetteville, Arkansas? We could have lost the war in Vietnam over Kent State."

“We did lose the war in Vietnam.”

“Yeah, but for other reasons.”

“I knew it! You shouldn’t have done Geraldo. He could have got out a chalkboard and drawn a map for everyone showing them where Fayetteville is located,” Clarence complained.

“Most people didn’t know where Kent State was located and that didn’t keep them from raising hell over 4 students getting killed.” (Kent, Ohio)

The Kent May 4 Center is a nonprofit educational center dedicated to preserving the history of the Kent State Massacre.

The shootings killed four students and wounded nine. Only one of the four students killed was participating in the protest, and one of the students killed, William Schroeder (who was observing but not participating in the demonstration) was a member of the campus ROTC chapter. Of those wounded, none was closer than 71 feet (22 m) from the guardsmen. Of those killed, the nearest was 265 feet (81 m) from the guardsmen.

In response to the attacks President Nixon gave a speech, saying “This should remind us all once again that when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy.” Many students felt that this placed blame for the tragedy on the protesting students, and not on the guardsmen. In the following days, Nixon repeatedly expressed regret for the tragedy, and invited some of the Kent State students to the White House.

Neil Young of the folk-rock group Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young quickly wrote and recorded a protest song, “Ohio”, in reaction to the shootings. The song starts with:

*Tin soldiers and Nixon’s comin’.
We’re finally on our own.
This summer I hear the drummin’.
Four dead in Ohio.*

Canadian industrial band Skinny Puppy has a song titled “Tin Omen” (on their 1989 album *Rabies*), in which they compare the shootings to the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre. Guardsmen – none of whom were later punished, civilly, administratively, or criminally – admitted firing at specific unarmed targets; one man shot a demonstrator who was giving him the finger.

The history of the next few years is very sad. A federal prosecution was finally brought, but the presiding judge is said to have signaled his preference for the defendants, guiding their attorney’s conduct of the case to help them avoid legal errors. He dismissed all charges at the close of the prosecution’s case, avoiding the need for a defense and taking the case away from the jury. Among his reasons: a failure to prove specific intent to

deprive the victims of their civil rights; due to the lack of any investigation, it was almost impossible at this late date to show which Guardsmen shot which victim.

A civil suit brought by the wounded students and the parents of the dead ones deteriorated among infighting by the plaintiffs' lawyers. Unable to agree on a single theory of the case, they contradicted each other. The jury returned a verdict for the defendants.

This verdict was overturned on appeal – the main ground was that the judge did not take seriously enough the attempted coercion of a juror who was assaulted by a stranger demanding an unspecified verdict – and a retrial was scheduled. On the eve of it, the exhausted plaintiffs settled with the state for \$675,000.00, which was divided 13 ways. Half of it went to Dean Kahler, the most seriously wounded survivor, and only \$15,000 apiece went to the families of each of the slain students, a pathetically small verdict in a day when lives are accounted to be worth in the many millions of dollars. The state issued a statement of “regret” which stopped short of an apology for the events of May 4th, nine years before.

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The students left the rifles on the campus. They weren't into guns. Once the protest got started, the FFM began sniping at the UN troops. The UN called for reinforcements but held their fire because they couldn't see any students with firearms. Then a student lobbed an Mk3A2 concussion grenade and all hell broke loose. The UN gunned down about 20 of the students in the general direction the grenade had come from.

Radar picked up the flight of UN helicopters and the Colonel scrambled 4 F-16s for a training session. Apaches and their counterparts aren't bulletproof; that had been proven in Iraqi Freedom and again in the vicinity of Marshall, AR. Up in Fayetteville, the UN was going to have to wait for the ground reinforcements. The students gathered up their dead and wounded and withdrew. The FFM kept up the sniping so the UN forces wouldn't cancel the request for reinforcements.

In Little Rock, they unloaded the 4 Abrams and 8 Bradley's from their transports and headed for the UN Headquarters. The UN had retained only a small guard force and the M240s on the Abrams and the 25mm Bushmaster's took care of them. The UN Commander was left with two options: Surrender; or, die for the UN. Nobody should ever die for the UN; he surrendered to Damon's Devils. The F-16s weren't needed in Little Rock and they took off on a practice flight to practice their ground assaults. They caught the UN force of 2 Companies on US 64 west of Russellville. They clearly demonstrated that they didn't need the practice.

Originally conceived as a simple air-superiority day fighter, the aircraft was armed for that mission with a single six-barrel Vulcan 20-mm cannon and two Sidewinder missiles, one mounted at each wingtip. Over the years, however, the mission capability of the aircraft has been extended to include ground-attack and all-weather operations. With full

internal fuel, the aircraft can carry up to 12 000 pounds of external stores including various types of ordnance as well as fuel tanks.

The original F-16 was designed as a lightweight air-to-air day fighter. Air-to-ground responsibilities transformed the first production F-16s into multirole fighters. The empty weight of the Block 10 F-16A is 15,600 pounds. The empty weight of the Block 50 is 19,200 pounds. The A in F-16A refers to a Block 1 through 20 single-seat aircraft. The B in F-16B refers to the two-seat version. The letters C and D were substituted for A and B, respectively, beginning with Block 25. From Block 30/32 on, a major block designation ending in 0 signifies a General Electric engine; one ending in 2 signifies a Pratt & Whitney engine. The US Air Force took delivery of its last F-16 Fighting Falcon on March 18, 2005, the last of 2,231 F-16s produced for the Air Force. The first delivery was in 1978. Now days, they had the F-22 Raptor and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

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The killing of 7 students and the wounding of 11 others in Russellville, Arkansas has renewed calls for the UN to withdraw its Peacekeeping forces. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff broke with the Administration in an announcement this afternoon and stated for the record that, America has always allowed freedom of dissent. Millions of Americans have died to keep it that way. Effective immediately the military forces of the United States will drive these invaders from our homeland. I call upon the President to resign.

“Where are you headed Gar-Bear?”

“Massachusetts.”

“What’s in Massachusetts?”

“Only a few USSS agents, guarding his and Terry’s home. We ought to be able to get in and prepare a barbeque for him this time for when he begins his vacation.”

“Maybe he’ll resign. The Chairman seemed to suggest that he’d better.”

“Nah, he won’t resign. That was just some of Wolf Blitzer’s speculation.”

“Gary, Bill O’Reilly seemed to think he should resign.”

“Bill O’Reilly doesn’t like Democrats any more than we do. Nobody ever listens to his opinions.”

“He’s often right.”

“I know, but Geraldo was often wrong and he had a bigger listening audience.”

“O’Reilly drew a map on a chalkboard showing the country where Fayetteville is located, Clarence.”

“That was quite the funeral they gave for Geraldo. Why didn’t anybody come?”

“They were probably all too busy practicing drawing maps in their sandboxes. Are the two of you coming to Massachusetts with me, or do I have to do this alone, too?”

“What do you mean alone? We went to New York with you.”

“Yeah, but when the fat was in the fire, you two were at Times Square hustling the bim-bos.”

“No we weren’t. We were looking for hookers.”

“The only difference between a hooker and a Bimbo is whether you give them cash or spend the money on them.”

“What are we taking for weapons?”

“A can of lacquer thinner to wash off the yellow stripe.”

“I wish I had some MP-5s like the USSS has.”

“Call the Colonel, maybe he will give you some.”

“Nah, he’d just want to know what we wanted them for. I don’t want anyone to know what our plans are.”

“What exactly are our plans?” Clarence asked.

“Just a minute, I have to delete a story I posted at Frugal’s. I unintentionally infringed on the guy’s copyright. There, that was easy. I hope he won’t get too angry with me.”

“What are you babbling about now?”

“I made another mistake. I fixed it the only way I knew how and un-posted the story.”

“How many mistakes does that make that you’ve made?”

“Just today, or in my lifetime?”

“Well, you’re close to 70 years old, I figure at least 25,000, Gar-Bear, that’s one a day.”

“That was before I woke up and got out of bed, Ronald.”

“Maybe it is a mistake to go to Massachusetts,” Clarence suggested.

“Maybe, but it wouldn’t be an official Three Amigos story if I didn’t killed at least one President.”

“Assuming we can pull it off, what are we going to do next?”

“Assuming we pull it off and don’t get caught, I’m coming home and plunking down in my recliner to watch the Military Channel. I’m old and tired. Very tired. I don’t have another yarn in me and I can’t really afford another keyboard.”

The Cold War – Epilogue

The Three Amigos did get caught. Never underestimate the USSS. They all plead not guilty by reason of insanity. Jerry Spence got them off. He charged them \$1 each for his services. They returned to Flippin and Gary thunked down in his recliner to watch the Military Channel.

It had been a very interesting ride... BTW, the UN left, but not of its own accord. They didn't have much choice when someone was able to bypass the PAL Codes and gave them an ultimatum. The President survived the scrubbing with the lacquer thinner. They never could get rid of the yellow stripe.

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